FROM HIROAKI SAMURA
CREATOR OF 'BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL'

DIE WERGELDER 1

SKC

A NEMESIS PUBLICATION

BAD BITCH ACTION

Die Wergelder

Samura Hiroaki

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DIE WERGELDER

1

Hiroaki Samura

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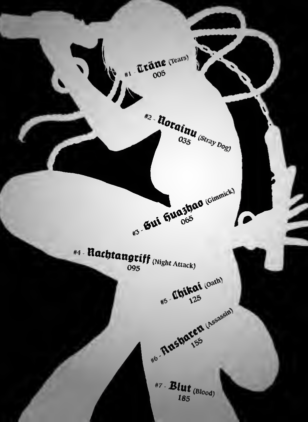

#1 - **Träne** (Tears) 005

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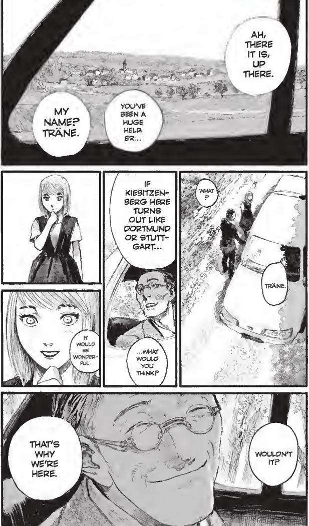
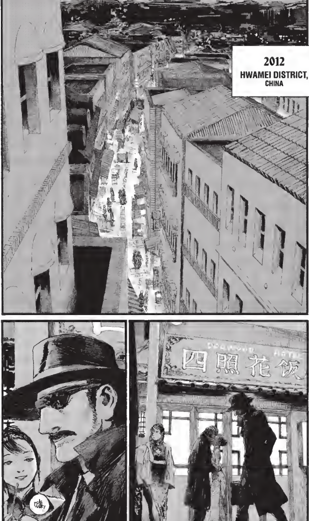
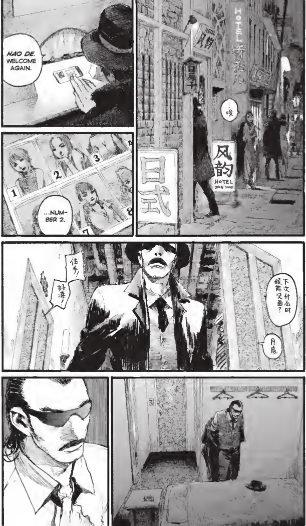

AH, THERE IT IS, UP THERE.
YOU'VE BEEN A HUGE HELP, ER...
MY NAME? TRÄNE.
WHAT?
TRÄNE.
IF KIEBITZENBERG HERE TURNS OUT LIKE DORTMUND OR STUTTGART...
...WHAT WOULD YOU THINK?
IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL
WOULDN'T IT?
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.

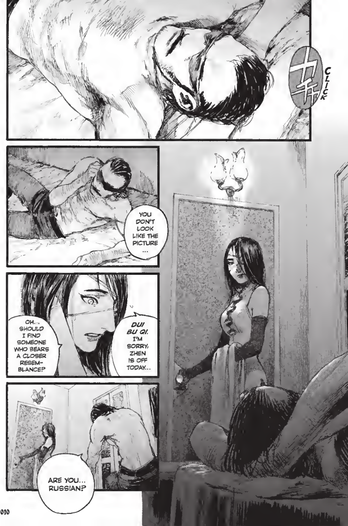
DORTMUND/STUTTGART Major industrial cities in Germany.

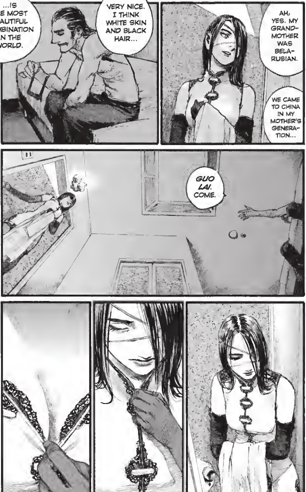
GELDER

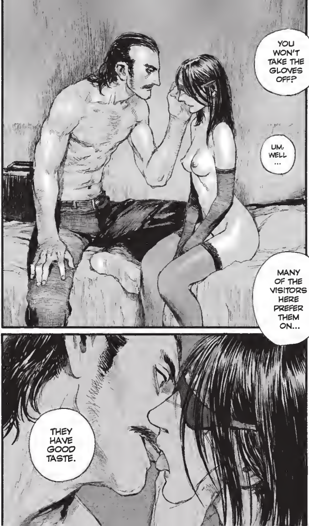
#1 - Träne (Tears)

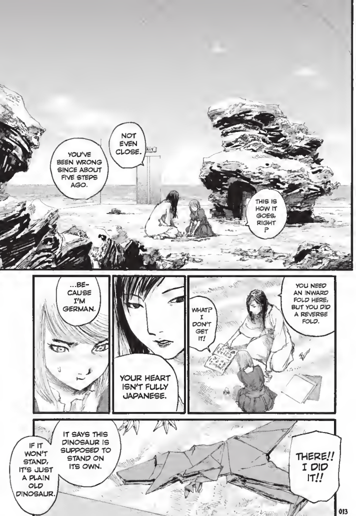

2012
HWAMEI DISTRICT,
CHINA
嗨,
四照花饭

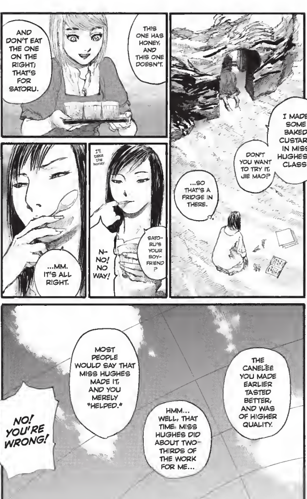

HAO DE. WELCOME AGAIN.
1
2
3
4
8
7
...NUMBER 2.
HOTEL 雪花儿
HOTEL 风韵
唉
日式
风韵 HOTEL
住手!
好滚!
下次什么时候能见面?
月底

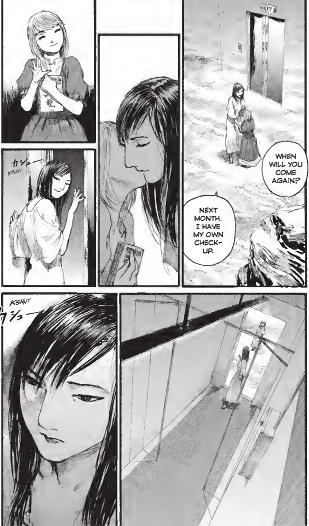

カチ
CLICK
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE THE PICTURE...
DUI BU QI. I'M SORRY, ZHEN IS OFF TODAY...
OH... SHOULD I FIND SOMEONE WHO BEARS A CLOSER RESEMBLANCE?
ARE YOU... RUSSIAN?

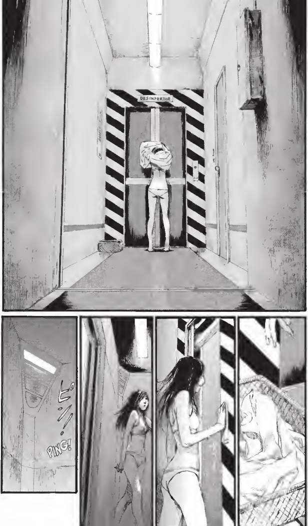

VERY NICE. I THINK WHITE SKIN AND BLACK HAIR...
...IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL COMBINATION IN THE WORLD.
AH, YES. MY GRANDMOTHER WAS BELARUSIAN.
WE CAME TO CHINA IN MY MOTHER'S GENERATION...
GUO LAI. COME.

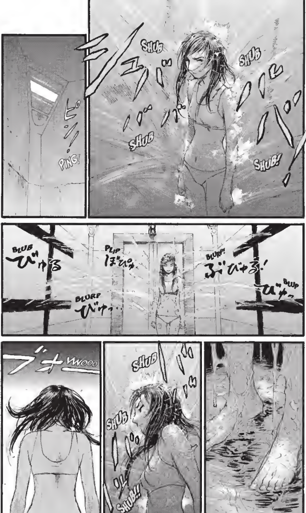

YOU WON'T TAKE THE GLOVES OFF?
UM, WELL ...
MANY OF THE VISITORS HERE PREFER THEM ON...
THEY HAVE GOOD TASTE.

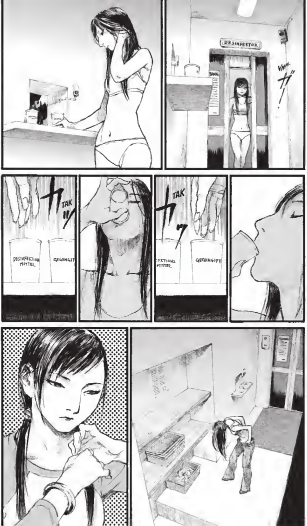

THIS IS HOW IT GOES, RIGHT?
NOT EVEN CLOSE.
YOU'VE BEEN WRONG SINCE ABOUT FIVE STEPS AGO.
YOU NEED AN INWARD FOLD HERE, BUT YOU DID A REVERSE FOLD.
WHAT? I DON'T GET IT!
YOUR HEART ISN'T FULLY JAPANESE.
...BECAUSE I'M GERMAN.
THERE!! I DID IT!!
IT SAYS THIS DINOSAUR IS SUPPOSED TO STAND ON ITS OWN.
IF IT WON'T STAND, IT'S JUST A PLAIN OLD DINOSAUR.

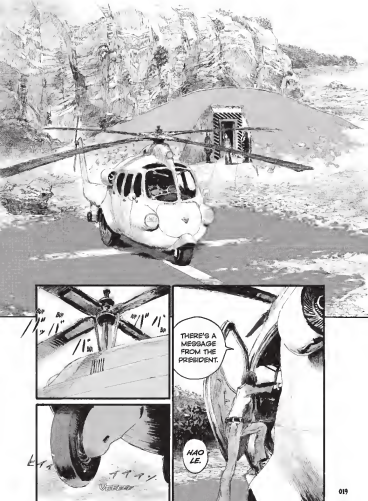

I MADE SOME BAKED CUSTARD IN MISS HUGHES'S CLASS.
DON'T YOU WANT TO TRY IT, JIE MAO?
...SO THAT'S A FRIDGE IN THERE.
THIS ONE HAS HONEY, AND THIS ONE DOESN'T.
AND DON'T EAT THE ONE ON THE RIGHT; THAT'S FOR SATORU.
I'll take the honey
SATORU'S YOUR BOYFRIEND?
N-NO! NO WAY!
...MM. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
THE CANELÉE YOU MADE EARLIER TASTED BETTER, AND WAS OF HIGHER QUALITY.
HMM... WELL, THAT TIME MISS HUGHES DID ABOUT TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORK FOR ME...
MOST PEOPLE WOULD SAY THAT MISS HUGHES MADE IT, AND YOU MERELY "HELPED."
NO! YOU'RE WRONG!

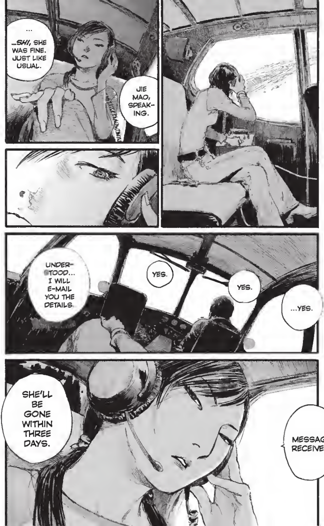

EXIT
WHEN WILL YOU COME AGAIN?
NEXT MONTH. I HAVE MY OWN CHECK-UP.
カシュー
KSHHT
KSHHT
カシュー

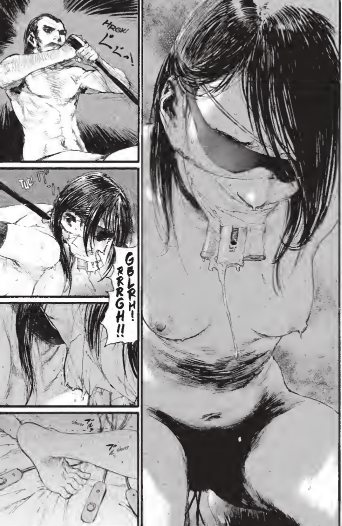

DESINFEKTOR
ピ!!
PING!

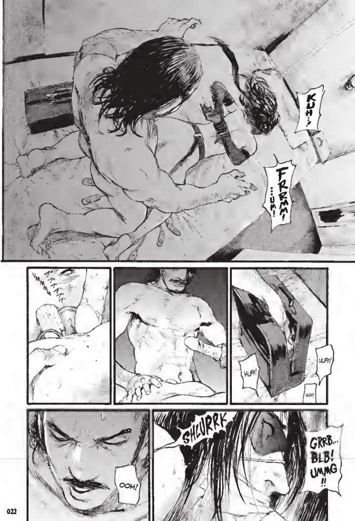

シュパ
SHUB
パパパ
SHUB
SHUB
パパ
SHUB!
ピン！
PING!
ぶびゅる！
BLURP!
びゅっ
BLUP
ぽぴゅ
PLIP
びゅる
BLUB
びゅっ…
BLURP
パパパ
SHUB
SHUB
SHUB!!
ブオー
VWOOO

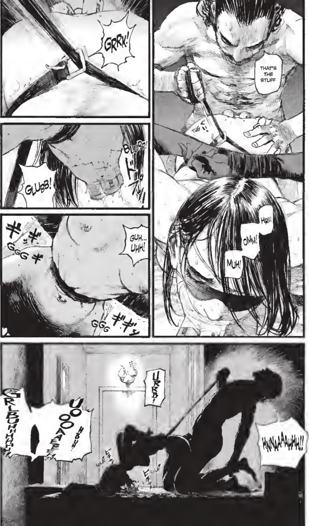

DESINFEKTOR
TUNG
VMM
ガ
TAK
カ
DESINFEKTION MITTEL
GEGENGIFT
TAK
カッ
FEKTIONS MITTEL
GEGENGIFT

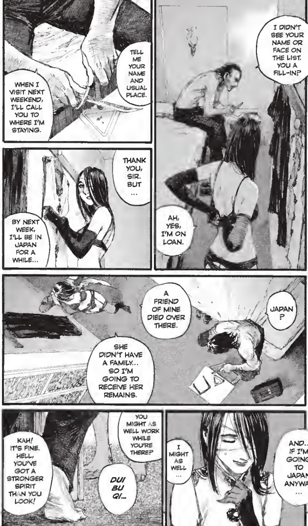

THERE'S A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT.
HAO LE.
バッ BUP
バ BUP
バ BUP
バ BUP
バ BUP
ヒイィ
イイイン. VEEEEE

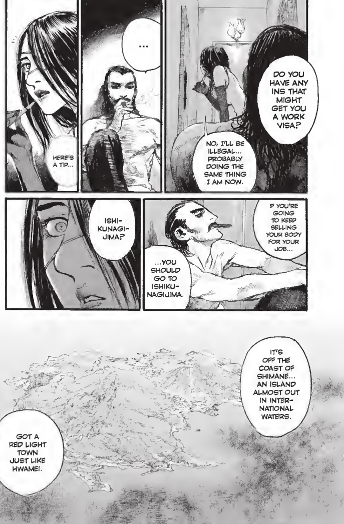

JIE MAO, SPEAKING.
... ...SHI, SHE WAS FINE. JUST LIKE USUAL.
...YES.
YES.
YES.
UNDERSTOOD... I WILL E-MAIL YOU THE DETAILS.
MESSAGE RECEIVED.
SHE'LL BE GONE WITHIN THREE DAYS.

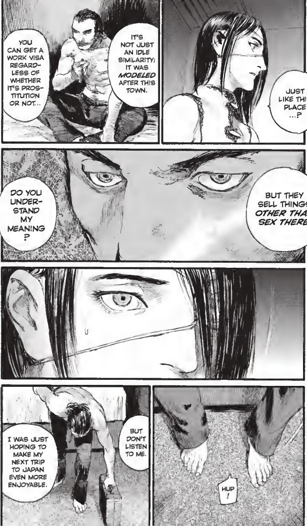

HRGK!
ぐぐっ!
TUG! ブ
GBLRH! RRRGH!!
shiver ブルッ
ブル… shiver

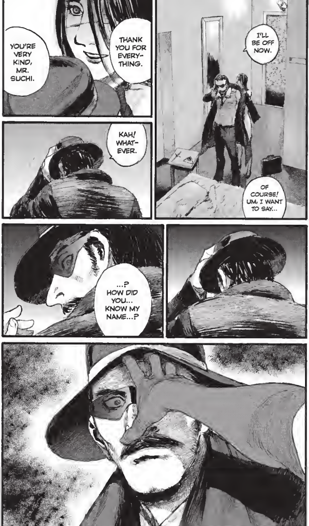

KUH...!
FRRMM! ...UM!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
ブブブブブブ
UMMMMM
GRRB... BLB! UMMG!!
SHLURRK
OOH!

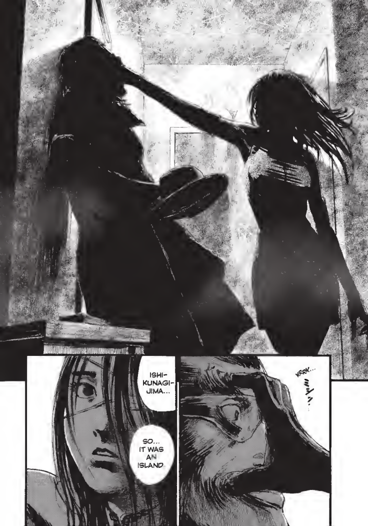

THAT'S THE STUFF
TUG ぐい
HRB!
OMM!
MUH!
GRRK!
BLURP! ドップッ
GLUBB!
ギ ギ GGG ギ
GUH... UHH!
GGG ギギシ
HNNAAAAUHH!!
URRB!
UOOOAAEEEH!!
HBUH!
GRLBUHHHAHH!!
SPLAT ビチャ
SPLAT ビチャ

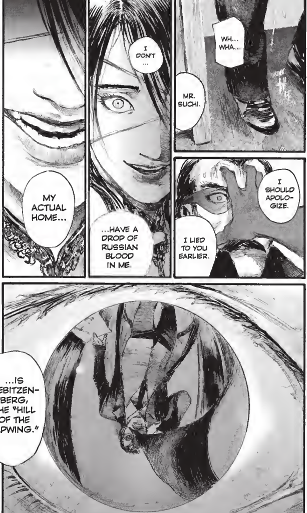

I DIDN'T SEE YOUR NAME OR FACE ON THE LIST. YOU A FILL-IN?
AH, YES, I'M ON LOAN.
TELL ME YOUR NAME AND USUAL PLACE.
WHEN I VISIT NEXT WEEKEND, I'LL CALL YOU TO WHERE I'M STAYING.
THANK YOU, SIR. BUT ...
BY NEXT WEEK, I'LL BE IN JAPAN FOR A WHILE...
JAPAN ?
A FRIEND OF MINE DIED OVER THERE.
SHE DIDN'T HAVE A FAMILY... SO I'M GOING TO RECEIVE HER REMAINS.
AND... IF I'M GOING TO JAPAN ANYWAY ...
I MIGHT AS WELL ...
YOU MIGHT AS WELL WORK WHILE YOU'RE THERE?
KAH! IT'S FINE. HELL, YOU'VE GOT A STRONGER SPIRIT THAN YOU LOOK!
DUI BU QI...

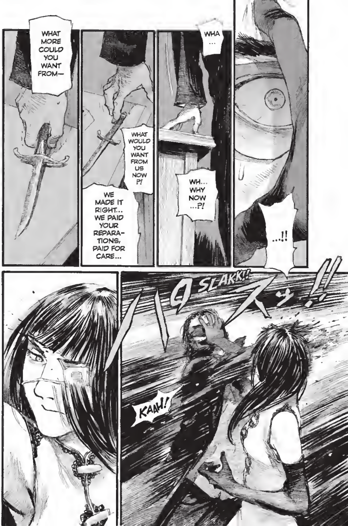

DO YOU HAVE ANY INS THAT MIGHT GET YOU A WORK VISA?
NO, I'LL BE ILLEGAL... PROBABLY DOING THE SAME THING I AM NOW.
...
HERE'S A TIP...
IF YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP SELLING YOUR BODY FOR YOUR JOB...
...YOU SHOULD GO TO ISHIKUNAGIJIMA.
ISHIKUNAGIJIMA?
IT'S OFF THE COAST OF SHIMANE... AN ISLAND ALMOST OUT IN INTERNATIONAL WATERS.
GOT A RED LIGHT TOWN JUST LIKE HWAMEI.

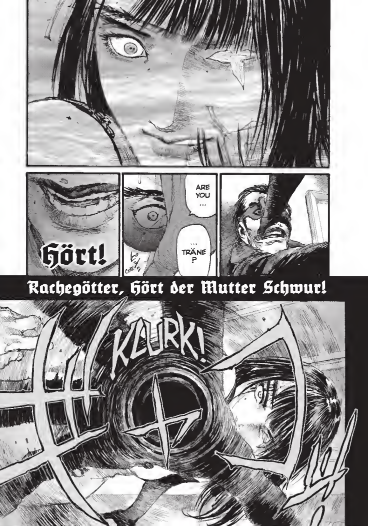

JUST LIKE THIS PLACE ...?
IT'S NOT JUST AN IDLE SIMILARITY; IT WAS *MODELED* AFTER THIS TOWN.
YOU CAN GET A WORK VISA REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT'S PROSTITUTION OR NOT...
BUT THEY SELL THINGS *OTHER THAN SEX THERE.*
DO YOU UNDERSTAND MY MEANING ?
HUP !
BUT DON'T LISTEN TO ME.
I WAS JUST HOPING TO MAKE MY NEXT TRIP TO JAPAN EVEN MORE ENJOYABLE.


I'LL BE OFF NOW.
OF COURSE! UM, I WANT TO SAY...
THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING.
YOU'RE VERY KIND, MR. SUCHI.
KAH! WHAT-EVER.
...? HOW DID YOU... KNOW MY NAME...?

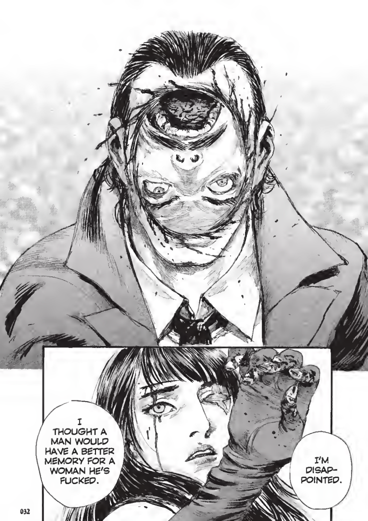

KRRK...
ISHI-KUNAGI-JIMA...
SO... IT WAS AN ISLAND

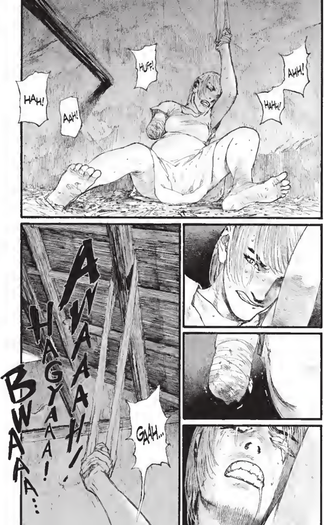

WH... WHA...
MR. SUCHI.
I SHOULD APOLOGIZE.
I LIED TO YOU EARLIER.
I DON'T ...
...HAVE A DROP OF RUSSIAN BLOOD IN ME.
MY ACTUAL HOME...
...IS KIEBITZENBERG, THE "HILL OF THE LAPWING."

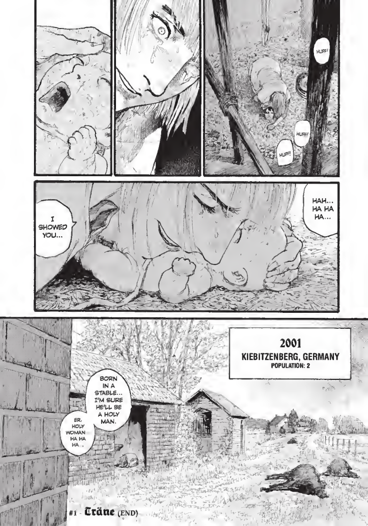

WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT FROM—
WHAT WOULD YOU WANT FROM US NOW?!
WE MADE IT RIGHT... WE PAID YOUR REPARATIONS, PAID FOR CARE...
WHA...
WH... WHY NOW...?!
...!!
SLAKK!!
KAAH!



Hört!
ARE YOU …
… TRÄNE ?
CRAK
Rachegötter, Hört der Mutter Schwur!
KLURK!

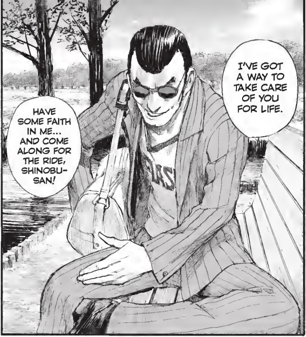

I'M DISAPPOINTED.
I THOUGHT A MAN WOULD HAVE A BETTER MEMORY FOR A WOMAN HE'S FUCKED.

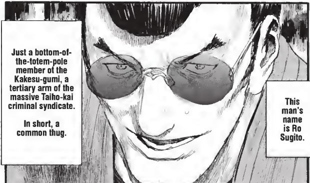

AHH!
HAHH!
HUFF!
AAH!
HAH!
AWAAAH!
HAGYAAA!
BWAAA...
GAAH...

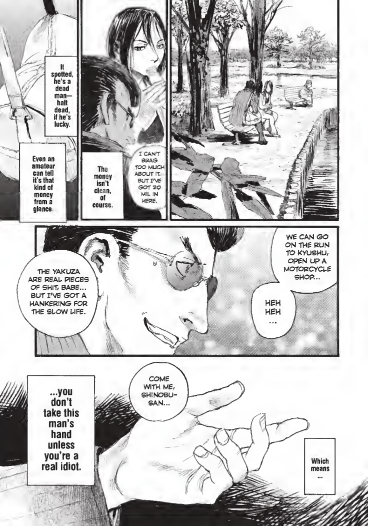

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HAH... HA HA HA...
I SHOWED YOU...
2001
KIEBITZENBERG, GERMANY
POPULATION: 2
BORN IN A STABLE... I'M SURE HE'LL BE A HOLY MAN.
ER, HOLY WOMAN HA HA HA.

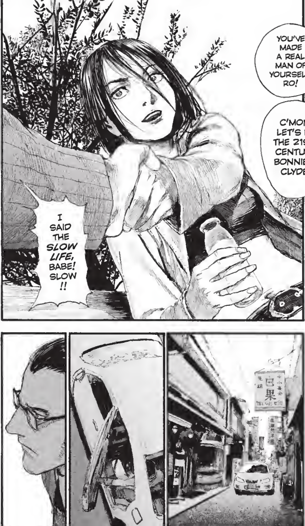
#1 - **Träne** (END)

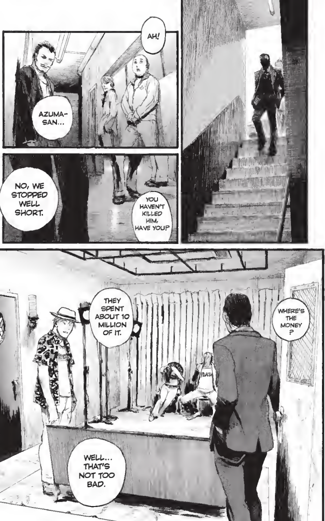
#2 - **Norainu** (Stray Dog)

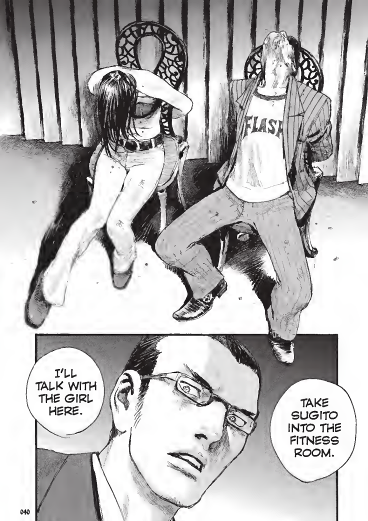

I'VE GOT A WAY TO TAKE CARE OF YOU FOR LIFE.
HAVE SOME FAITH IN ME... AND COME ALONG FOR THE RIDE, SHINOBU-SAN!

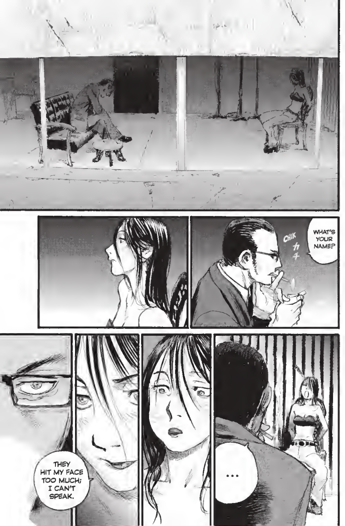

This man's name is Ro Sugito.
Just a bottom-of-the-totem-pole member of the Kakesu-gumi, a tertiary arm of the massive Taiho-kai criminal syndicate.
In short, a common thug.

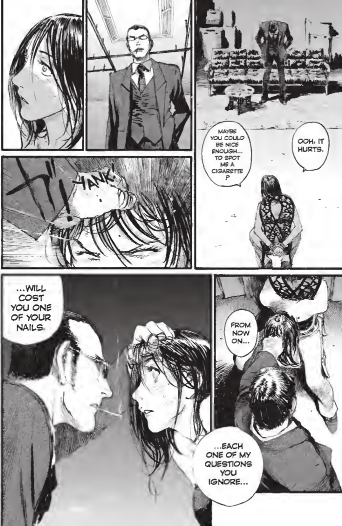

I CAN'T BRAG TOO MUCH ABOUT IT, BUT I'VE GOT 20 MIL IN HERE.
The money isn't clean, of course.
Even an amateur can tell it's that kind of money from a glance.
If spotted, he's a dead man—half dead, if he's lucky.
WE CAN GO ON THE RUN TO KYUSHU, OPEN UP A MOTORCYCLE SHOP...
HEH HEH ...
THE YAKUZA ARE REAL PIECES OF SHIT, BABE... BUT I'VE GOT A HANKERING FOR THE SLOW LIFE.
COME WITH ME, SHINOBU-SAN...
Which means ...
...you don't take this man's hand unless you're a real idiot.

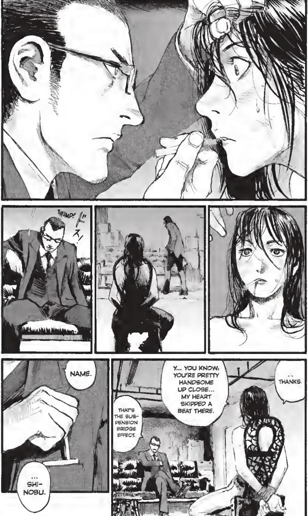

YOU'VE MADE A REAL MAN OF YOURSELF, RO!
C'MON, LET'S BE THE 21ST-CENTURY BONNIE & CLYDE!
I SAID THE *SLOW LIFE*, BABE! SLOW !!

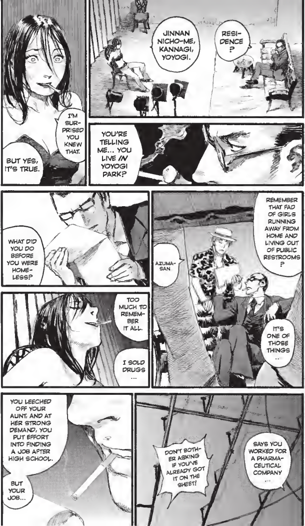

AH!
AZUMA-SAN...
YOU HAVEN'T KILLED HIM, HAVE YOU?
NO, WE STOPPED WELL SHORT.
WHERE'S THE MONEY?
THEY SPENT ABOUT 10 MILLION OF IT.
WELL... THAT'S NOT TOO BAD.

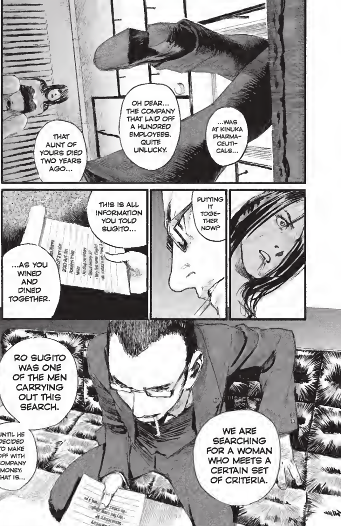

FLASH
TAKE SUGITO INTO THE FITNESS ROOM.
I'LL TALK WITH THE GIRL HERE.

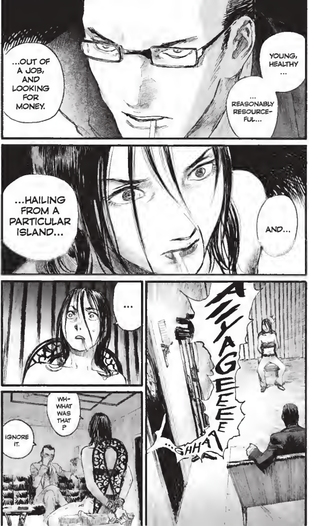

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
CHIK
カチ
...
THEY HIT MY FACE TOO MUCH; I CAN'T SPEAK.

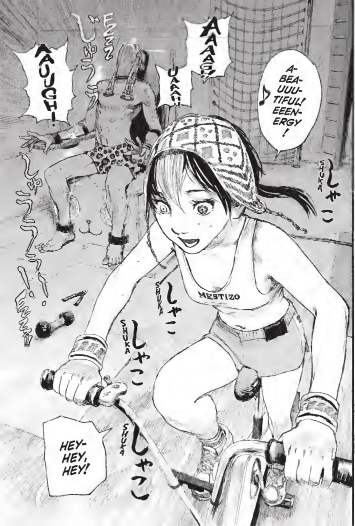

OOH, IT HURTS.
MAYBE YOU COULD BE NICE ENOUGH... TO SPOT ME A CIGARETTE?
YANK!
FROM NOW ON...
...EACH ONE OF MY QUESTIONS YOU IGNORE...
...WILL COST YOU ONE OF YOUR NAILS.

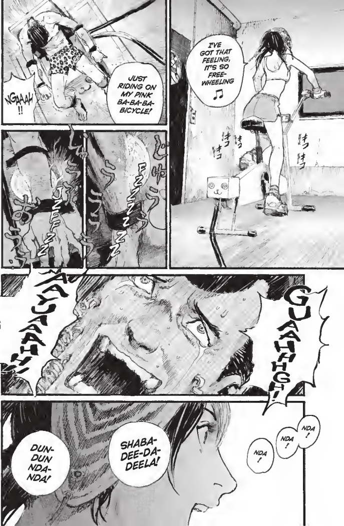

THUMP! ドス!
... THANKS.
Y... YOU KNOW, YOU'RE PRETTY HANDSOME UP CLOSE... MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT THERE.
THAT'S THE SUSPENSION BRIDGE EFFECT.
NAME.
... SHINOBU.


RESIDENCE?
JINNAN NICHO-ME, KANNAGI, YOYOGI.
YOU'RE TELLING ME... YOU LIVE *IN* YOYOGI PARK?
I'M SURPRISED YOU KNEW THAT.
BUT YES, IT'S TRUE.
REMEMBER THAT FAD OF GIRLS RUNNING AWAY FROM HOME AND LIVING OUT OF PUBLIC RESTROOMS?
AZUMA-SAN
IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS...
WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE YOU WERE HOMELESS?
TOO MUCH TO REMEMBER IT ALL.
I SOLD DRUGS...
SAYS YOU WORKED FOR A PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY...
DON'T BOTHER ASKING IF YOU'VE ALREADY GOT IT ON THE SHEET!
YOU LEECHED OFF YOUR AUNT, AND AT HER STRONG DEMAND, YOU PUT EFFORT INTO FINDING A JOB AFTER HIGH SCHOOL.
BUT YOUR JOB...

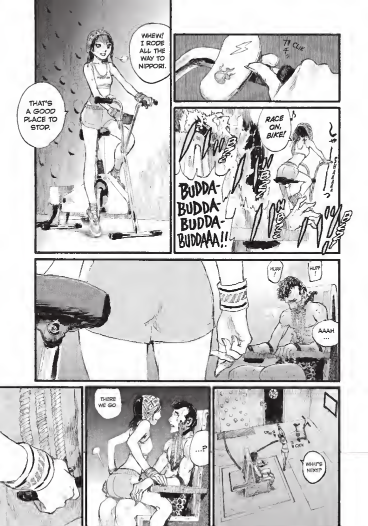

...WAS AT KINUKA PHARMACEUTICALS...
OH DEAR... THE COMPANY THAT LAID OFF A HUNDRED EMPLOYEES. QUITE UNLUCKY.
THAT AUNT OF YOURS DIED TWO YEARS AGO...
PUTTING IT TOGETHER NOW?
THIS IS ALL INFORMATION YOU TOLD SUGITO...
2010: Aunt dies
Homeless in May
Notes
• No drug use history
• Sexual history 3?
• Very fast runner (Sugito)
...AS YOU WINED AND DINED TOGETHER.
WE ARE SEARCHING FOR A WOMAN WHO MEETS A CERTAIN SET OF CRITERIA.
RO SUGITO WAS ONE OF THE MEN CARRYING OUT THIS SEARCH.
UNTIL HE DECIDED TO MAKE OFF WITH COMPANY MONEY, THAT IS...

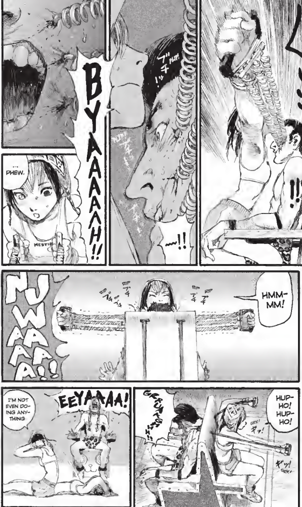

YOUNG, HEALTHY ...
... REASONABLY RESOURCEFUL...
...OUT OF A JOB, AND LOOKING FOR MONEY.
AND...
...HAILING FROM A PARTICULAR ISLAND...
AIIYAGEEEEE
...GHHA
...
WH- WHAT WAS THAT?
IGNORE IT.

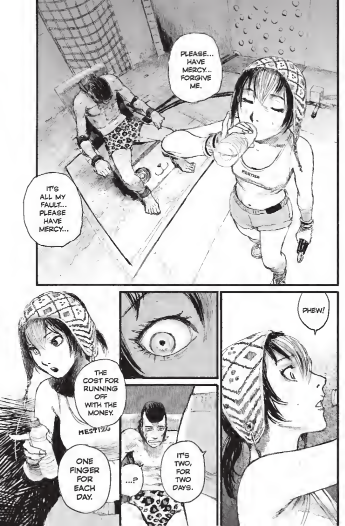

A-BEA-UUU-TIFUL! EEEN-ERGY! ♪
AAAAGH!
UAAAH!!
FZZZ じゅううう
AAUUGH!
SHUKA しゃこ
SHUKA しゃこ
SHUKA しゃこ
SHUKA しゃこ
しゅうううう〜〜!! FZZZZ!!
MESTIZO
HEY-HEY, HEY!

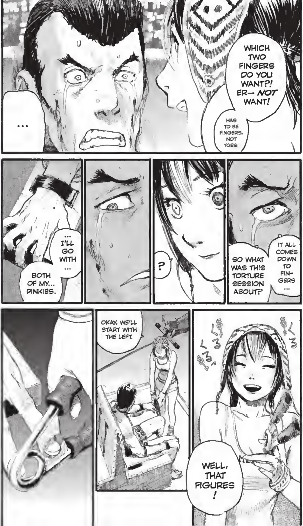

I'VE GOT THAT FEELING, IT'S SO FREE-WHEELING ♫
キコ
キコ
キコ
キコ
キコ
JUST RIDING ON MY PINK BA-BA-BA-BICYCLE!
NGAAAH !!
じゅううう
FZZZZZZZ
うううう
しゅうう
JZZFFZZ
おぉう
GUAAHHGH!
NAAYUAAHH!!
NDA!
NDA!
NDA!
SHABA-DEE-DA-DEELA!
DUN-DUN NDA-NDA!

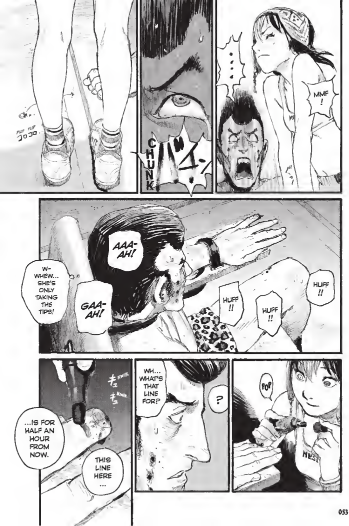
SONG: "Pink Bicycle" (by Shang Shang Typhoon)

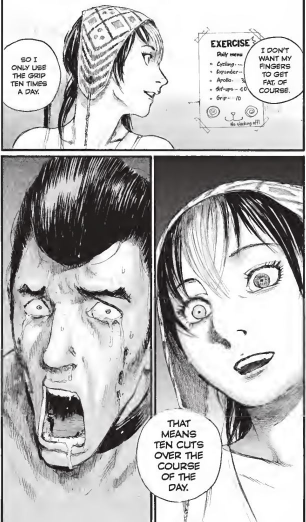

カチッ
CLIK
RACE ON, BIKE!
しゃーっ
SHAAAAAA
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDAAA!!
WHEW! I RODE ALL THE WAY TO NIPPORI.
THAT'S A GOOD PLACE TO STOP.
HUFF!
HUFF!
AAAH...
CRIK
CRIK
WHAT'S NEXT?
...?
THERE WE GO

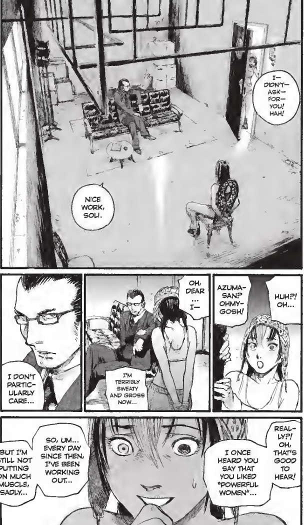

ぐいいっ
HNNNNNNG!!
!!
ブチッ
PLIP!
~!!
BYAAAAAAH!!
... PHEW.
MESTIS
HMMM-MM!
RIP ブチ
RIP ブチ
RIP ブチ
RIP ブチ
NJWAAAAA!!
HUP-HO! HUP-HO!
GRK! ギャ!
ギッ! GRK!
GRRUAAGHH!!
EEYAAAAA!
I'M NOT EVEN DOING ANYTHING

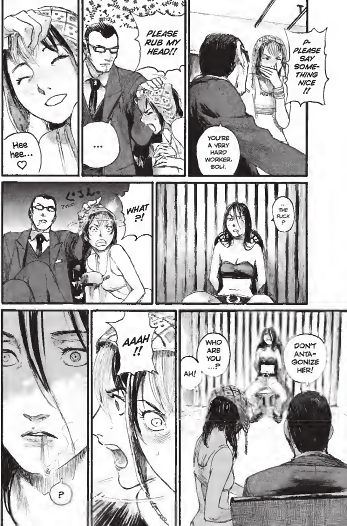

PLEASE... HAVE MERCY... FORGIVE ME.
MESTIZO
IT'S ALL MY FAULT... PLEASE HAVE MERCY...
PHEW!
IT'S TWO, FOR TWO DAYS.
...?
THE COST FOR RUNNING OFF WITH THE MONEY.
MESTIZO
ONE FINGER FOR EACH DAY.

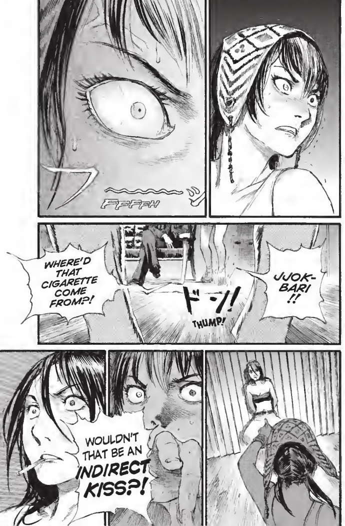

WHICH TWO FINGERS DO YOU WANT?! ER– *NOT* WANT!
HAS TO BE FINGERS, NOT TOES
...
IT ALL COMES DOWN TO FIN-GERS ...
SO WHAT WAS THIS TORTURE SESSION ABOUT?
?
... I'LL GO WITH ...
BOTH OF MY... PINKIES.
くる
くる
くるっ
WELL, THAT FIGURES!
OKAY, WE'LL START WITH THE LEFT.

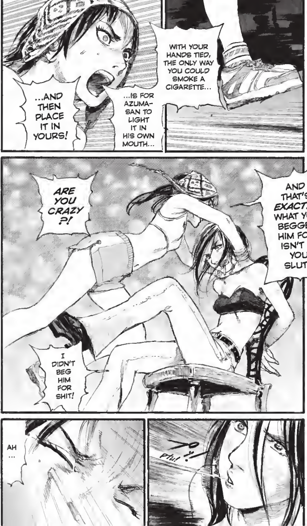

. . . .
MMF !
CHUNK
PLIP PLIP
コロコロ
HUFF !!
HUFF !!
HUFF !!
AAA-AH!
GAA-AH!
W-WHEW... SHE'S ONLY TAKING THE TIPS!
POP
WH... WHAT'S THAT LINE FOR?
?
MESI
キュ KWIK
キュ KWIK
THIS LINE HERE ...
...IS FOR HALF AN HOUR FROM NOW.

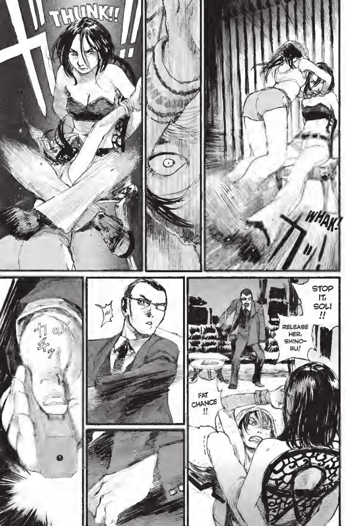

I DON'T WANT MY FINGERS TO GET FAT, OF COURSE.
SO I ONLY USE THE GRIP TEN TIMES A DAY.
EXERCISE
Daily menu
Cycling ...
Expander ...
Apollo. 3
Sit-ups -- 40
Grip -- 10
No slacking off!
THAT MEANS TEN CUTS OVER THE COURSE OF THE DAY.

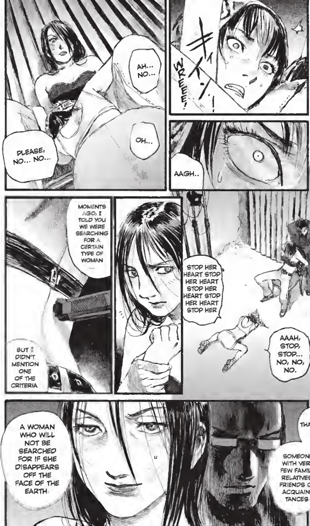

I— DIDN'T— ASK— FOR— YOU! HAH!
NICE WORK, SOLI.
HUH?! OH...
AZUMA-SAN? OHMYGOSH!
OH, DEAR... I—
I'M TERRIBLY SWEATY AND GROSS NOW...
I DON'T PARTICULARLY CARE...
REALLY?! OH, THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR!
I ONCE HEARD YOU SAY THAT YOU LIKED "POWERFUL WOMEN"...
SO, UM... EVERY DAY SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN WORKING OUT...
BUT I'M STILL NOT PUTTING ON MUCH MUSCLE, SADLY...

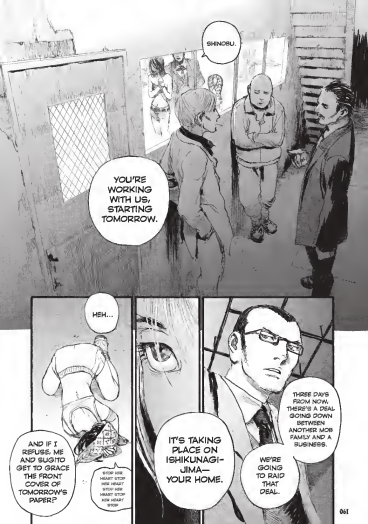

P-PLEASE SAY SOME-THING NICE!!
YOU'RE A VERY HARD WORKER, SOLI.
PLEASE RUB MY HEAD!!
...
Hee hee... ♡
...THE FUCK?
ぐさん
ZWIRL
WHAT?!
DON'T ANTA-GONIZE HER!
WHO ARE YOU ...?
AH!
AAAH!!
?

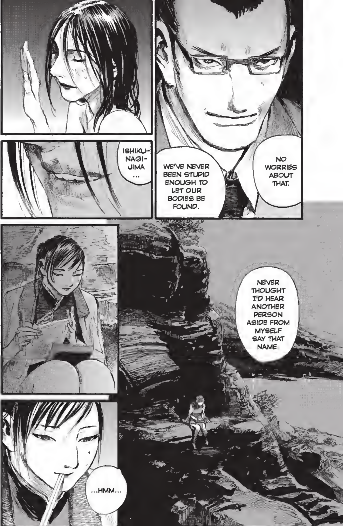

FFFFH
JJOK-BARI!!
ドッ!
THUMP!
WHERE'D THAT CIGARETTE COME FROM?!
WOULDN'T THAT BE AN INDIRECT KISS?!

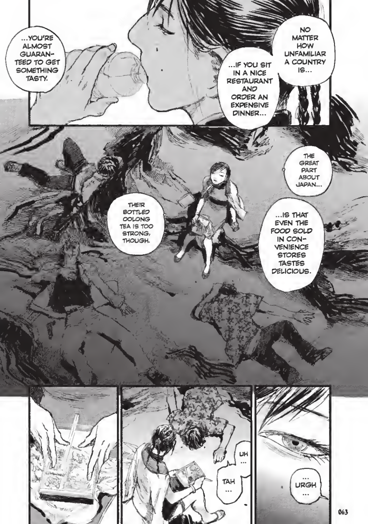

WITH YOUR HANDS TIED, THE ONLY WAY YOU COULD SMOKE A CIGARETTE...
...IS FOR AZUMA-SAN TO LIGHT IT IN HIS OWN MOUTH...
...AND THEN PLACE IT IN YOURS!
AND THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT YOU BEGGED HIM FOR, ISN'T IT, YOU SLUT!!
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
I DIDN'T BEG HIM FOR SHIT!
Ptu!
AH ...


WHAK!
THUNK!!
STOP IT, SOLI!!
RELEASE HER, SHINOBU!
FAT CHANCE!!
カチッ CLIK

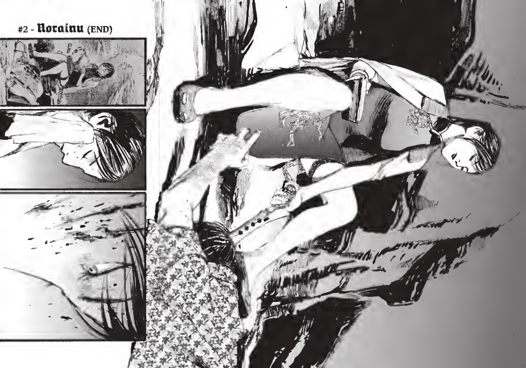

キィ
WREEE!
AAGH..
AH... NO...
OH...
PLEASE, NO... NO...
STOP HER HEART STOP HER HEART STOP HER HEART STOP HER HEART STOP HER
AAAH, STOP, STOP... NO, NO, NO.
MOMENTS AGO, I TOLD YOU WE WERE SEARCHING FOR A CERTAIN TYPE OF WOMAN ...
BUT I DIDN'T MENTION ONE OF THE CRITERIA
THAT IS...
SOMEONE WITH VERY FEW FAMILY RELATIVES FRIENDS OR ACQUAINTANCES
A WOMAN WHO WILL NOT BE SEARCHED FOR IF SHE DISAPPEARS OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH

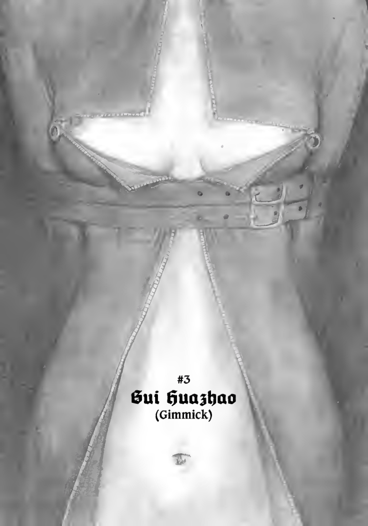

SHINOBU.
YOU'RE WORKING WITH US, STARTING TOMORROW.
THREE DAYS FROM NOW, THERE'S A DEAL GOING DOWN BETWEEN ANOTHER MOB FAMILY AND A BUSINESS.
WE'RE GOING TO RAID THAT DEAL.
IT'S TAKING PLACE ON ISHIKUNAGI-JIMA— YOUR HOME.
HEH...
AND IF I REFUSE, ME AND SUGITO GET TO GRACE THE FRONT COVER OF TOMORROW'S PAPER?
STOP HER HEART STOP HER HEART STOP HER HEART STOP HER HEART STOP


NO WORRIES ABOUT THAT.
WE'VE NEVER BEEN STUPID ENOUGH TO LET OUR BODIES BE FOUND.
!SHIKUNAGIJIMA ...
NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR ANOTHER PERSON ASIDE FROM MYSELF SAY THAT NAME
...HMM...


NO MATTER HOW UNFAMILIAR A COUNTRY IS...
...IF YOU SIT IN A NICE RESTAURANT AND ORDER AN EXPENSIVE DINNER...
...YOU'RE ALMOST GUARANTEED TO GET SOMETHING TASTY.
THE GREAT PART ABOUT JAPAN...
...IS THAT EVEN THE FOOD SOLD IN CONVENIENCE STORES TASTES DELICIOUS.
THEIR BOTTLED OOLONG TEA IS TOO STRONG, THOUGH.
... URGH ...
UH ...
TAH ...

#2 - **Norainu** (END)

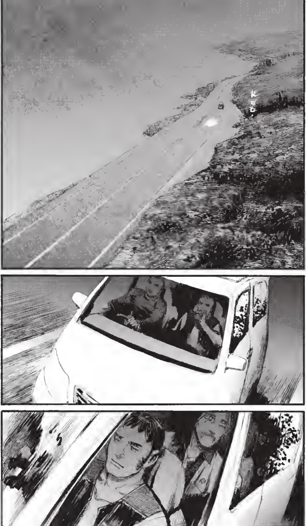


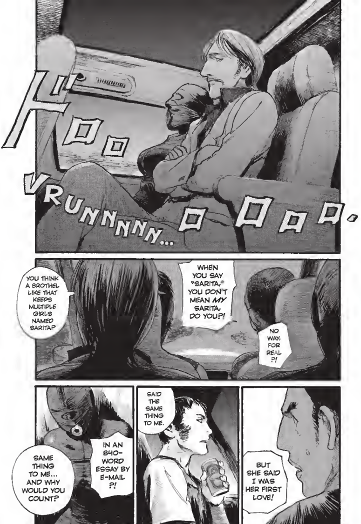


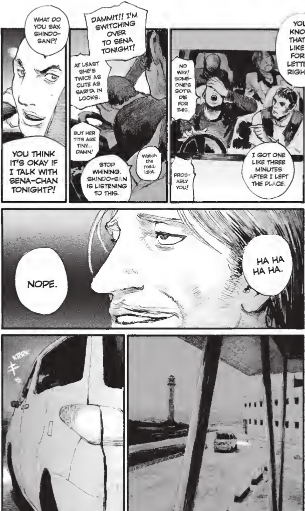
#3

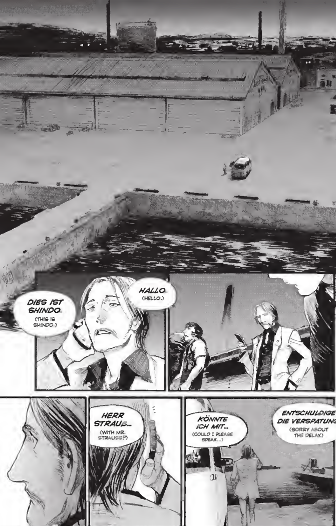
Gui Huazhao

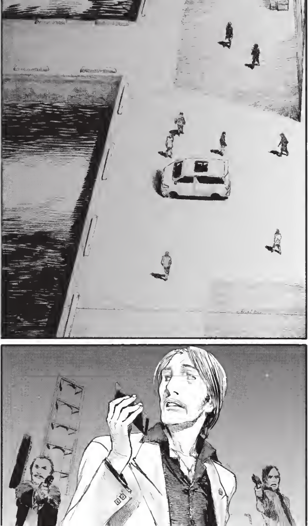
(Gimmick)

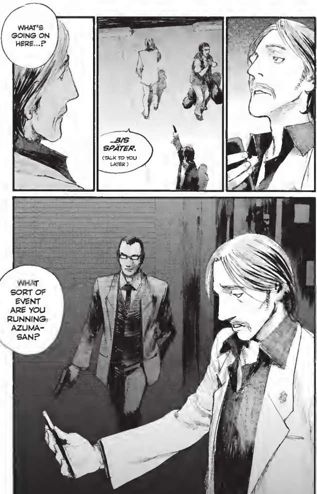


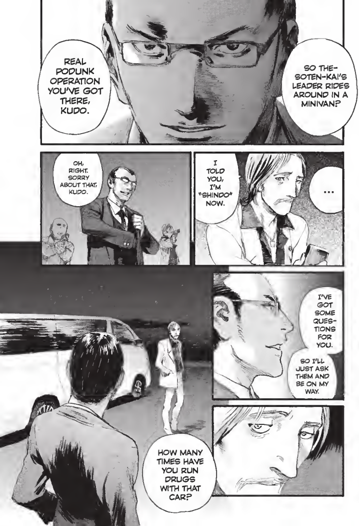

ドロロ
VRUNNNNN... ロロロ
WHEN YOU SAY "SARITA," YOU DON'T MEAN *MY* SARITA, DO YOU?!
YOU THINK A BROTHEL LIKE THAT KEEPS MULTIPLE GIRLS NAMED SARITA?
NO WAY, FOR REAL?!
BUT SHE SAID I WAS HER FIRST LOVE!
SAID THE SAME THING TO ME.
IN AN 840-WORD ESSAY BY E-MAIL?!
SAME THING TO ME... AND WHY WOULD YOU COUNT?

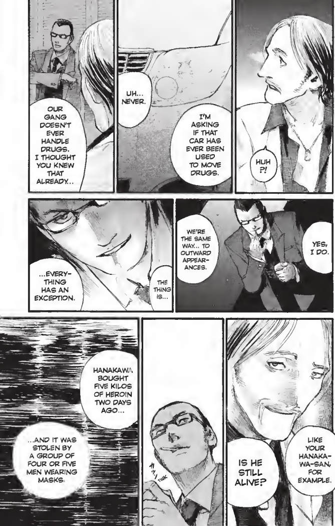

WHAT DO YOU SAY, SHINDO-SAN?!
YOU THINK IT'S OKAY IF I TALK WITH SENA-CHAN TONIGHT?!
DAMMIT!! I'M SWITCHING OVER TO SENA TONIGHT!
AT LEAST SHE'S TWICE AS CUTE AS SARITA IN LOOKS.
BUT HER TITS ARE TINY... DAMN!
STOP WHINING. SHINDO-SAN IS LISTENING TO THIS.
Watch the road, idiot.
YOU KNOW THAT'S LIKE A FORM LETTER, RIGHT?
NO WAY! SOME-ONE'S GOTTA DIE FOR THIS.
PROB-ABLY YOU!
I GOT ONE LIKE THREE MINUTES AFTER I LEFT THE PLACE.
NOPE.
HA HA HA HA.
KRRK

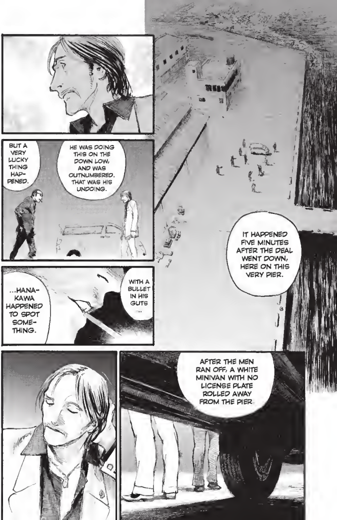

DIES IST SHINDO. (THIS IS SHINDO.)
HALLO. (HELLO.)
HERR STRAUß... (WITH MR. STRAUSS?)
KÖNNTE ICH MIT... (COULD I PLEASE SPEAK...)
ENTSCHULDIGE DIE VERSPATUNG. (SORRY ABOUT THE DELAY.)

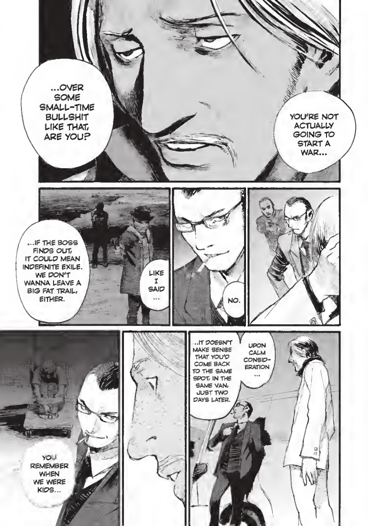


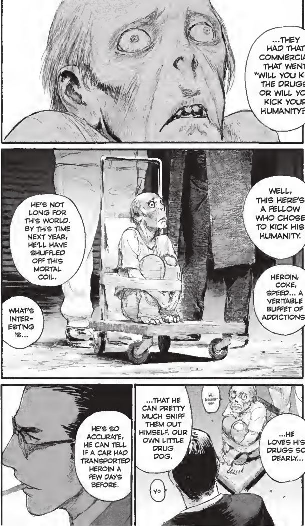

...BIS SPÄTER.
(TALK TO YOU LATER)
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?
WHAT SORT OF EVENT ARE YOU RUNNING, AZUMA-SAN?

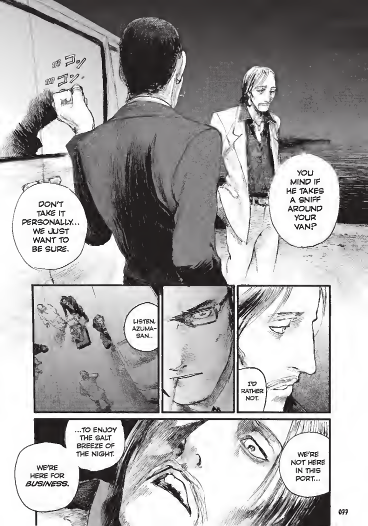

SO THE-SOTEN-KAI'S LEADER RIDES AROUND IN A MINIVAN?
REAL PODUNK OPERATION YOU'VE GOT THERE, KUDO.
...
I TOLD YOU, I'M "SHINDO" NOW.
OH, RIGHT. SORRY ABOUT THAT, KUDO.
I'VE GOT SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU.
SO I'LL JUST ASK THEM AND BE ON MY WAY.
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU RUN DRUGS WITH THAT CAR?

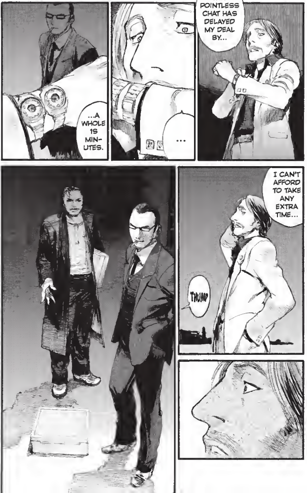

HUH?!
I'M ASKING IF THAT CAR HAS EVER BEEN USED TO MOVE DRUGS.
UH... NEVER.
OUR GANG DOESN'T EVER HANDLE DRUGS. I THOUGHT YOU KNEW THAT ALREADY...
YES, I DO.
WE'RE THE SAME WAY... TO OUTWARD APPEARANCES.
THE THING IS...
...EVERYTHING HAS AN EXCEPTION.
LIKE YOUR HANAKAWA-SAN, FOR EXAMPLE.
IS HE STILL ALIVE?
THK
HANAKAWA BOUGHT FIVE KILOS OF HEROIN TWO DAYS AGO...
...AND IT WAS STOLEN BY A GROUP OF FOUR OR FIVE MEN WEARING MASKS.

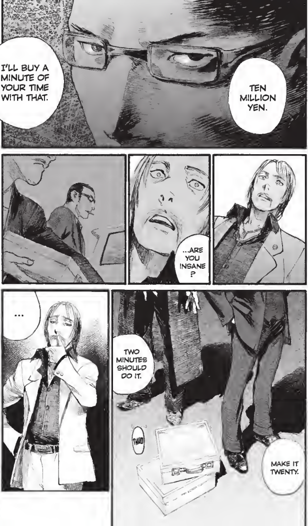

IT HAPPENED FIVE MINUTES AFTER THE DEAL WENT DOWN, HERE ON THIS VERY PIER.
HE WAS DOING THIS ON THE DOWN LOW, AND WAS OUTNUMBERED. THAT WAS HIS UNDOING.
BUT A VERY LUCKY THING HAPPENED.
WITH A BULLET IN HIS GUTS...
...HANAKAWA HAPPENED TO SPOT SOMETHING.
AFTER THE MEN RAN OFF, A WHITE MINIVAN WITH NO LICENSE PLATE ROLLED AWAY FROM THE PIER.

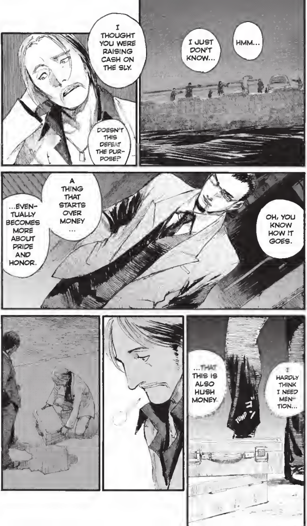

YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY GOING TO START A WAR...
...OVER SOME SMALL-TIME BULLSHIT LIKE THAT, ARE YOU?
NO.
LIKE I SAID...
...IF THE BOSS FINDS OUT, IT COULD MEAN INDEFINITE EXILE. WE DON'T WANNA LEAVE A BIG FAT TRAIL, EITHER.
UPON CALM CONSIDERATION...
...IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE THAT YOU'D COME BACK TO THE SAME SPOT, IN THE SAME VAN, JUST TWO DAYS LATER.
YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE KIDS...

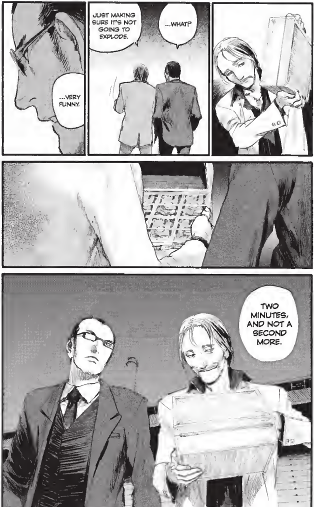

...THEY HAD THAT COMMERCIAL THAT WENT, "WILL YOU KICK THE DRUGS, OR WILL YOU KICK YOUR HUMANITY?"
WELL, THIS HERE'S A FELLOW WHO CHOSE TO KICK HIS HUMANITY.
HEROIN, COKE, SPEED... A VERITABLE BUFFET OF ADDICTIONS.
HE'S NOT LONG FOR THIS WORLD. BY THIS TIME NEXT YEAR, HE'LL HAVE SHUFFLED OFF THIS MORTAL COIL.
WHAT'S INTERESTING IS...
...HE LOVES HIS DRUGS SO DEARLY...
HI, Azuma-san.
...THAT HE CAN PRETTY MUCH SNIFF THEM OUT HIMSELF. OUR OWN LITTLE DRUG DOG.
YO
HE'S SO ACCURATE, HE CAN TELL IF A CAR HAD TRANSPORTED HEROIN A FEW DAYS BEFORE.

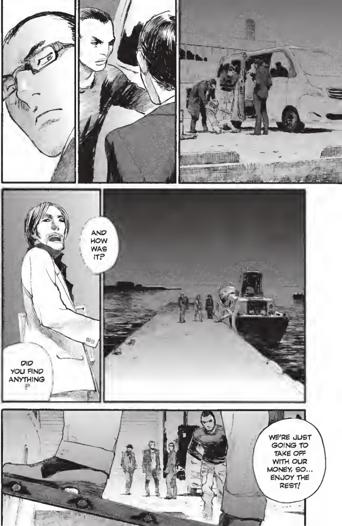

TAP コツ
TAP コツ
YOU MIND IF HE TAKES A SNIFF AROUND YOUR VAN?
DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY... WE JUST WANT TO BE SURE.
I'D RATHER NOT.
LISTEN, AZUMA-SAN..
WE'RE NOT HERE IN THIS PORT...
...TO ENJOY THE SALT BREEZE OF THE NIGHT.
WE'RE HERE FOR *BUSINESS*.

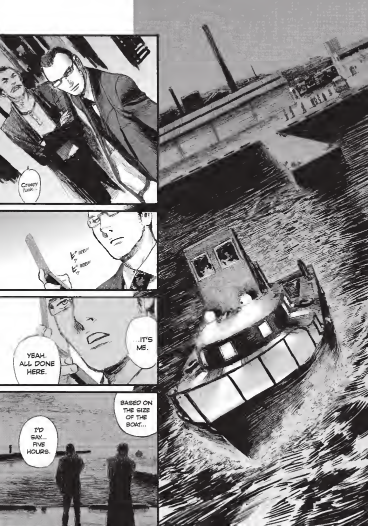

THIS POINTLESS CHAT HAS DELAYED MY DEAL BY...
...
...A WHOLE 15 MINUTES.
I CAN'T AFFORD TO TAKE ANY EXTRA TIME...
THUMP

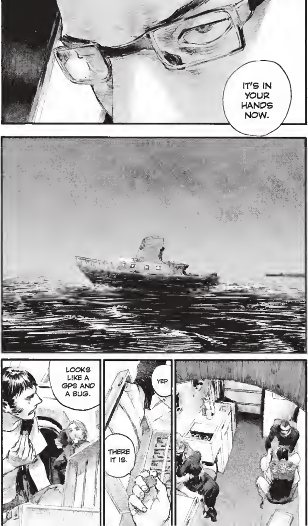

TEN MILLION YEN.
I'LL BUY A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME WITH THAT.
...ARE YOU INSANE?
TWO MINUTES SHOULD DO IT.
THUD
MAKE IT TWENTY.
...

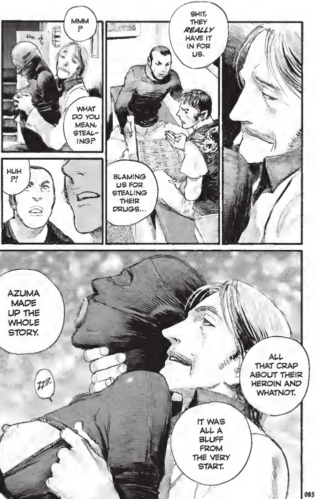

HMM...
I JUST DON'T KNOW...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE RAISING CASH ON THE SLY.
DOESN'T THIS DEFEAT THE PURPOSE?
OH, YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES.
A THING THAT STARTS OVER MONEY...
...EVENTUALLY BECOMES MORE ABOUT PRIDE AND HONOR.
I HARDLY THINK I NEED MENTION...
...THAT THIS IS ALSO HUSH MONEY.
ゴッ
TUMP

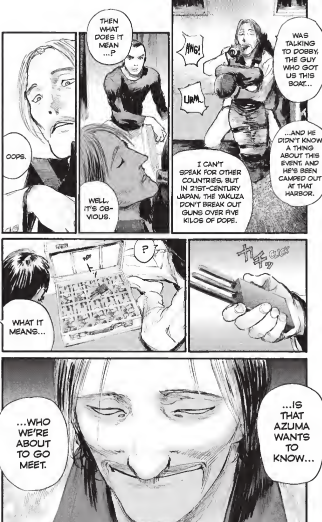

JUST MAKING SURE IT'S NOT GOING TO EXPLODE.
...WHAT?
...VERY FUNNY.
TWO MINUTES, AND NOT A SECOND MORE.

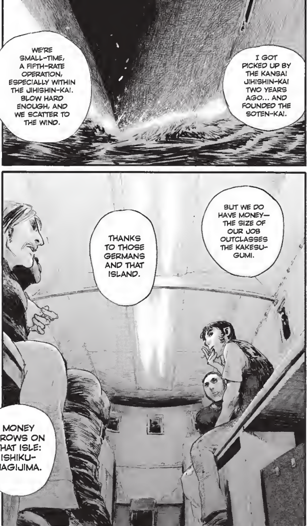

AND HOW WAS IT?
DID YOU FIND ANYTHING?
WE'RE JUST GOING TO TAKE OFF WITH OUR MONEY, SO... ENJOY THE REST!

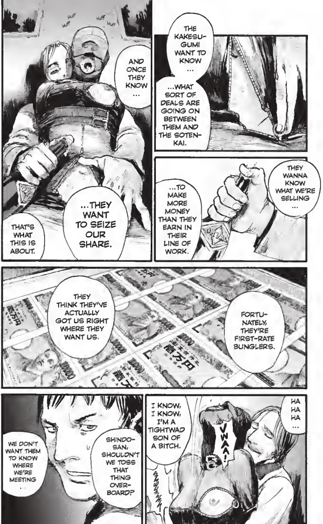

Creepy fuck...
ピッ BEEP
ピッ BEEP
...IT'S ME.
YEAH. ALL DONE HERE.
BASED ON THE SIZE OF THE BOAT...
I'D SAY... FIVE HOURS.

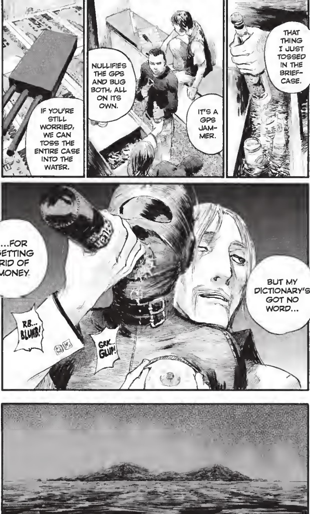

IT'S IN YOUR HANDS NOW.
LOOKS LIKE A GPS AND A BUG.
YEP
THERE IT IS.

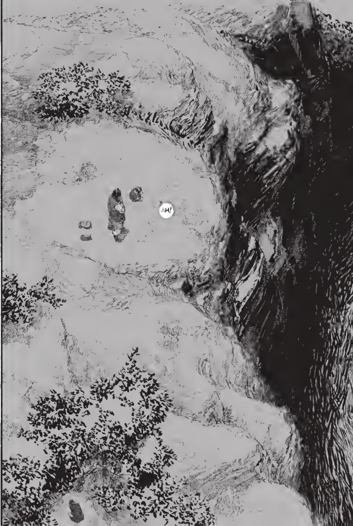

SHIT, THEY *REALLY* HAVE IT IN FOR US.
BLAMING US FOR STEALING THEIR DRUGS...
Umg...
MMM ?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, STEALING?
HUH ?!
AZUMA MADE UP THE WHOLE STORY.
ZZIP...
ALL THAT CRAP ABOUT THEIR HEROIN AND WHATNOT.
IT WAS ALL A BLUFF FROM THE VERY START.

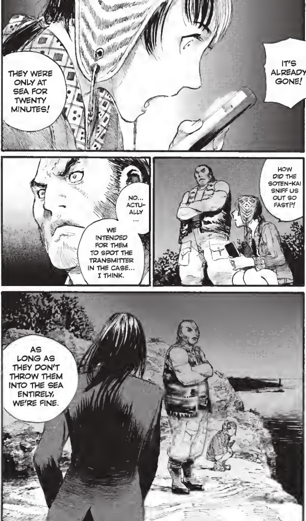

HNG!
URM.
WAS TALKING TO DOBBY, THE GUY WHO GOT US THIS BOAT...
...AND HE DIDN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT THIS EVENT, AND HE'S BEEN CAMPED OUT AT THAT HARBOR.
I CAN'T SPEAK FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT IN 21ST-CENTURY JAPAN, THE YAKUZA DON'T BREAK OUT GUNS OVER FIVE KILOS OF DOPE.
THEN WHAT DOES IT MEAN ...?
WELL, IT'S OB-VIOUS.
OOPS.
カチッ
CLICK
?
POP
WHAT IT MEANS...
...IS THAT AZUMA WANTS TO KNOW...
...WHO WE'RE ABOUT TO GO MEET.

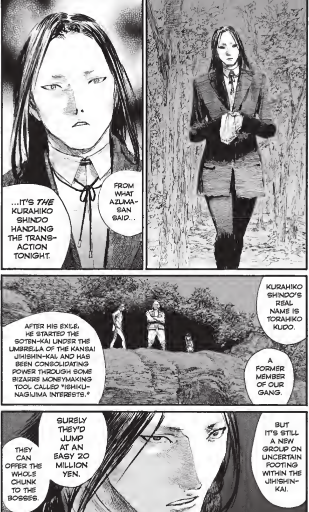

I GOT PICKED UP BY THE KANSAI JIHISHIN-KAI TWO YEARS AGO... AND FOUNDED THE SOTEN-KAI.
WE'RE SMALL-TIME, A FIFTH-RATE OPERATION, ESPECIALLY WITHIN THE JIHISHIN-KAI. BLOW HARD ENOUGH, AND WE SCATTER TO THE WIND.
BUT WE DO HAVE MONEY— THE SIZE OF OUR JOB OUTCLASSES THE KAKESU-GUMI.
THANKS TO THOSE GERMANS AND THAT ISLAND.
MONEY GROWS ON THAT ISLE: ISHIKU-NAGIJIMA.

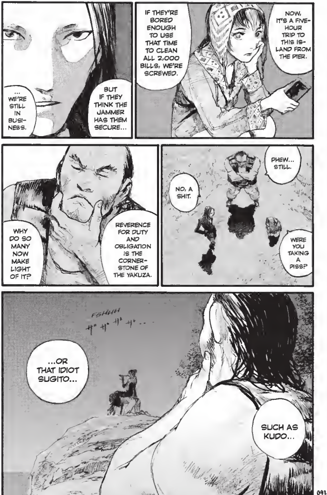

HUFF HUFF HUFF HUFF
THE KAKESU-GUMI WANT TO KNOW ...
...WHAT SORT OF DEALS ARE GOING ON BETWEEN THEM AND THE SOTEN-KAI.
THEY WANNA KNOW WHAT WE'RE SELLING ...
...TO MAKE MORE MONEY THAN THEY EARN IN THEIR LINE OF WORK.
AND ONCE THEY KNOW ...
...THEY WANT TO SEIZE OUR SHARE.
THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.
THEY THINK THEY'VE ACTUALLY GOT US RIGHT WHERE THEY WANT US.
FORTUNATELY, THEY'RE FIRST-RATE BUNGLERS.
HA HA HA ...
I KNOW, I KNOW, I'M A TIGHTWAD SON OF A BITCH.
VWAA!
SHINDO-SAN, SHOULDN'T WE TOSS THAT THING OVERBOARD?
WE DON'T WANT THEM TO KNOW WHERE WE'RE MEETING ...

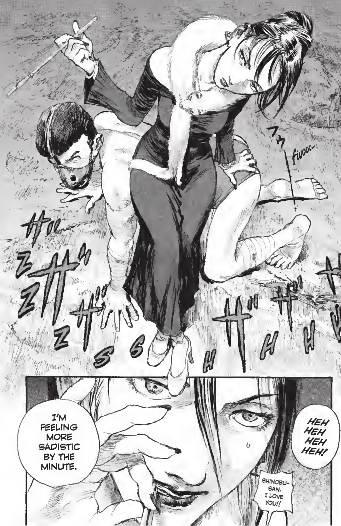

THAT THING I JUST TOSSED IN THE BRIEF-CASE.
IT'S A GPS JAM-MER.
NULLIFIES THE GPS AND BUG BOTH, ALL ON ITS OWN.
IF YOU'RE STILL WORRIED, WE CAN TOSS THE ENTIRE CASE INTO THE WATER.
BUT MY DICTIONARY'S GOT NO WORD...
...FOR GETTING RID OF MONEY.
GRK GLUP!
RB... BLUMB!


AH!


IT'S ALREADY GONE!
THEY WERE ONLY AT SEA FOR TWENTY MINUTES!
HOW DID THE SOTEN-KAI SNIFF US OUT SO FAST?!
NO... ACTUALLY ...
WE INTENDED FOR THEM TO SPOT THE TRANSMITTER IN THE CASE... I THINK.
AS LONG AS THEY DON'T THROW THEM INTO THE SEA ENTIRELY, WE'RE FINE.


FROM WHAT AZUMA-SAN SAID...
...IT'S *THE* KURAHIKO SHINDO HANDLING THE TRANSACTION TONIGHT.
KURAHIKO SHINDO'S REAL NAME IS TORAHIKO KUDO.
A FORMER MEMBER OF OUR GANG.
AFTER HIS EXILE, HE STARTED THE SOTEN-KAI UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF THE KANSAI JIHISHIN-KAI, AND HAS BEEN CONSOLIDATING POWER THROUGH SOME BIZARRE MONEYMAKING TOOL CALLED "ISHIKU-NAGIJIMA INTERESTS."
BUT IT'S STILL A NEW GROUP ON UNCERTAIN FOOTING WITHIN THE JIHISHIN-KAI.
SURELY THEY'D JUMP AT AN EASY 20 MILLION YEN.
THEY CAN OFFER THE WHOLE CHUNK TO THE BOSSES.


NOW, IT'S A FIVE-HOUR TRIP TO THIS ISLAND FROM THE PIER.
IF THEY'RE BORED ENOUGH TO USE THAT TIME TO CLEAN ALL 2,000 BILLS, WE'RE SCREWED.
BUT IF THEY THINK THE JAMMER HAS THEM SECURE...
...WE'RE STILL IN BUSINESS.
PHEW... STILL.
NO, A SHIT.
WERE YOU TAKING A PISS?
REVERENCE FOR DUTY AND OBLIGATION IS THE CORNERSTONE OF THE YAKUZA.
WHY DO SO MANY NOW MAKE LIGHT OF IT?
FSHHH
SUCH AS KUDO...
...OR THAT IDIOT SUGITO...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fwooo...
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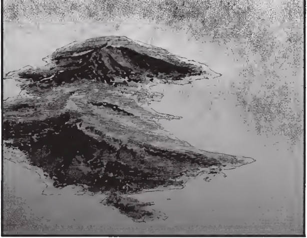
HEH HEH HEH HEH!
SHINOBU-SAN, I LOVE YOU!!
I'M FEELING MORE SADISTIC BY THE MINUTE.

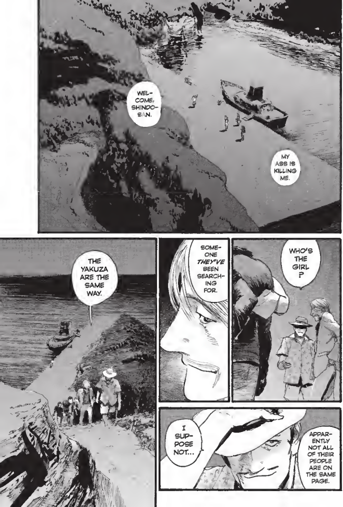
#3 - Gui Guazhao (END)

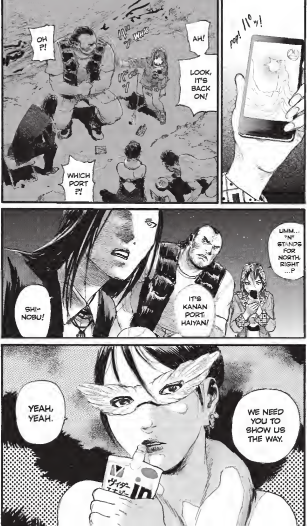
#4

Nachtangriff

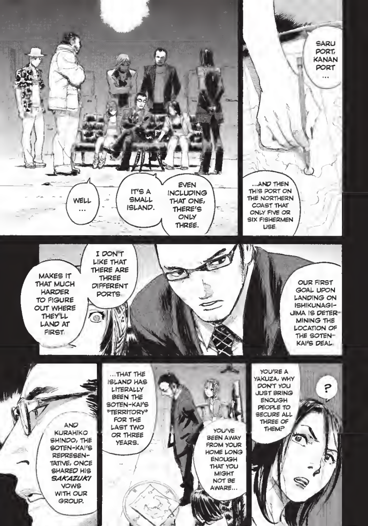
(Night Attack)

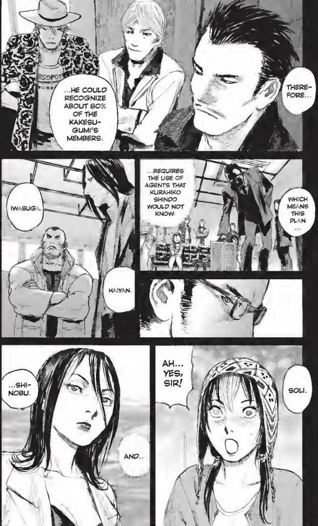


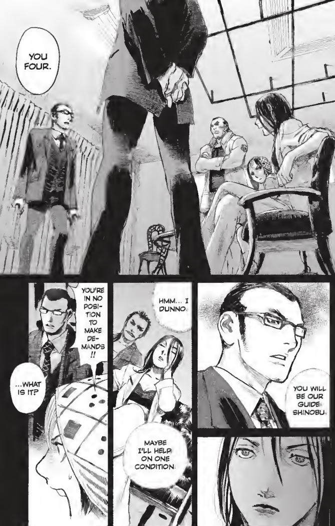

WEL-COME, SHINDO-SAN.
MY ASS IS KILLING ME.
WHO'S THE GIRL?
SOME-ONE *THEY'VE* BEEN SEARCH-ING FOR.
APPAR-ENTLY NOT ALL OF THEIR PEOPLE ARE ON THE SAME PAGE.
I SUP-POSE NOT...
THE YAKUZA ARE THE SAME WAY.

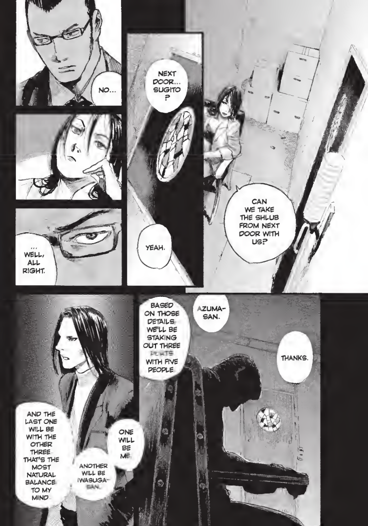

pop!
AH!
LOOK, IT'S BACK ON!
WHAP
WHAP
OH ?!
WHICH PORT ?!
UMM... "N" STANDS FOR NORTH, RIGHT ...?
IT'S KANAN PORT HAIYAN!
SHI- NOBU!
WE NEED YOU TO SHOW US THE WAY.
YEAH, YEAH.
ヴィダー

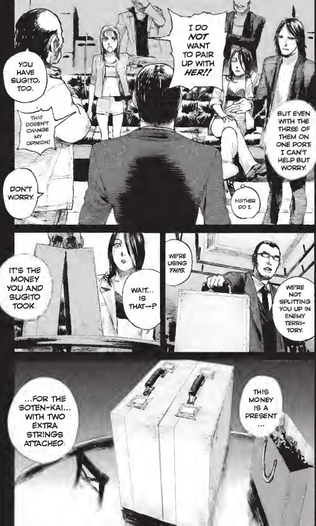
DRINK: Vider Energy

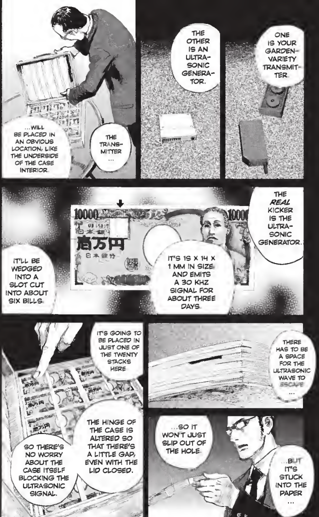

SARU PORT, KANAN PORT ...
...AND THEN THIS PORT ON THE NORTHERN COAST THAT ONLY FIVE OR SIX FISHERMEN USE.
EVEN INCLUDING THAT ONE, THERE'S ONLY THREE.
IT'S A SMALL ISLAND.
WELL ...
OUR FIRST GOAL UPON LANDING ON ISHIKUNAGI-JIMA IS DETERMINING THE LOCATION OF THE SOTEN-KAI'S DEAL.
I DON'T LIKE THAT THERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT PORTS.
MAKES IT THAT MUCH HARDER TO FIGURE OUT WHERE THEY'LL LAND AT FIRST.
?
YOU'RE A YAKUZA, WHY DON'T YOU JUST BRING ENOUGH PEOPLE TO SECURE ALL THREE OF THEM?
YOU'VE BEEN AWAY FROM YOUR HOME LONG ENOUGH THAT YOU MIGHT NOT BE AWARE...
...THAT THE ISLAND HAS LITERALLY BEEN THE SOTEN-KAI'S "TERRITORY" FOR THE LAST TWO OR THREE YEARS.
AND KURAHIKO SHINDO, THE SOTEN-KAI'S REPRESENTATIVE, ONCE SHARED HIS *SAKAZUKI* VOWS WITH OUR GROUP.

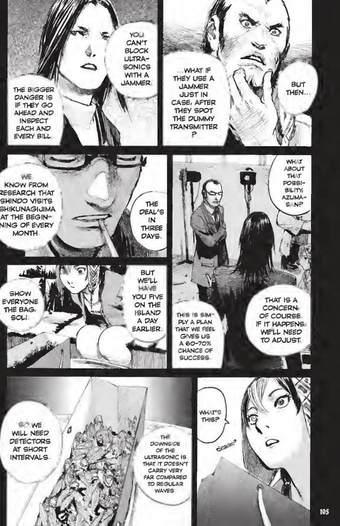

THERE-FORE...
...HE COULD RECOGNIZE ABOUT 80% OF THE KAKESU-GUMI'S MEMBERS.
WHICH MEANS THIS PLAN ...
...REQUIRES THE USE OF AGENTS THAT KURAHIKO SHINDO WOULD NOT KNOW.
IWASUGA.
HAIYAN.
SOLI.
AH... YES, SIR!
AND...
...SHI-NOBU.

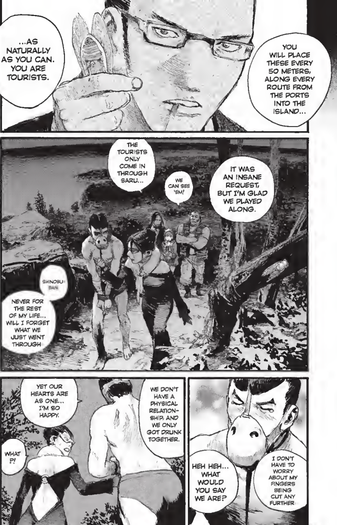

YOU FOUR.
YOU WILL BE OUR GUIDE, SHINOBU.
HMM... I DUNNO.
MAYBE I'LL HELP ON ONE CONDITION.
YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO MAKE DEMANDS!!
...WHAT IS IT?

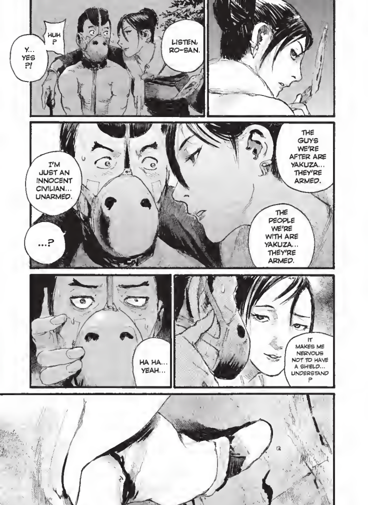

CAN WE TAKE THE SHLUB FROM NEXT DOOR WITH US?
NEXT DOOR... SUGITO?
YEAH.
NO...
...WELL, ALL RIGHT.
AZUMA-SAN.
THANKS.
BASED ON THOSE DETAILS, WE'LL BE STAKING OUT THREE POINTS WITH FIVE PEOPLE.
ONE WILL BE ME.
ANOTHER WILL BE IWASUGA-SAN.
AND THE LAST ONE WILL BE WITH THE OTHER THREE. THAT'S THE MOST NATURAL BALANCE TO MY MIND.

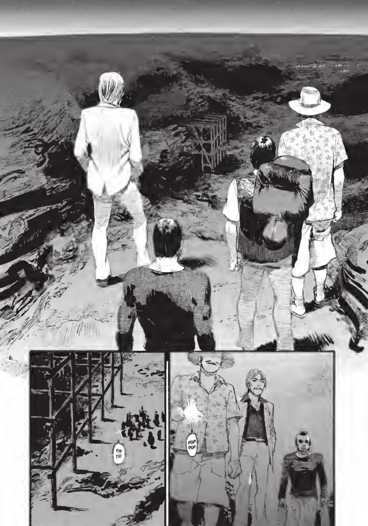

I DO *NOT* WANT TO PAIR UP WITH *HER!!*
YOU HAVE SUGITO, TOO.
THAT DOESN'T CHANGE MY OPINION!
BUT EVEN WITH THE THREE OF THEM ON ONE PORT, I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY.
NEITHER DO I.
DON'T WORRY.
WE'RE USING *THIS*.
WE'RE NOT SPLITTING YOU UP IN ENEMY TERRITORY.
WAIT... IS THAT—?
IT'S THE MONEY YOU AND SUGITO TOOK.
THIS MONEY IS A PRESENT...
...FOR THE SOTEN-KAI... WITH TWO EXTRA STRINGS ATTACHED.

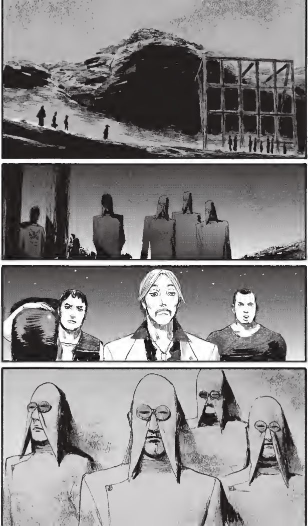

ONE IS YOUR GARDEN-VARIETY TRANSMITTER.
THE OTHER IS AN ULTRASONIC GENERATOR.
THE TRANSMITTER ...
...WILL BE PLACED IN AN OBVIOUS LOCATION, LIKE THE UNDERSIDE OF THE CASE INTERIOR.
THE *REAL* KICKER IS THE ULTRASONIC GENERATOR.
10000
壱万円
日本銀行
IT'S 15 X 14 X 1 MM IN SIZE AND EMITS A 30 KHZ SIGNAL FOR ABOUT THREE DAYS.
IT'LL BE WEDGED INTO A SLOT CUT INTO ABOUT SIX BILLS.
IT'S GOING TO BE PLACED IN JUST ONE OF THE TWENTY STACKS HERE.
THERE HAS TO BE A SPACE FOR THE ULTRASONIC WAVE TO ESCAPE ...
...BUT IT'S STUCK INTO THE PAPER ...
...SO IT WON'T JUST SLIP OUT OF THE HOLE.
THE HINGE OF THE CASE IS ALTERED SO THAT THERE'S A LITTLE GAP, EVEN WITH THE LID CLOSED.
SO THERE'S NO WORRY ABOUT THE CASE ITSELF BLOCKING THE ULTRASONIC SIGNAL.

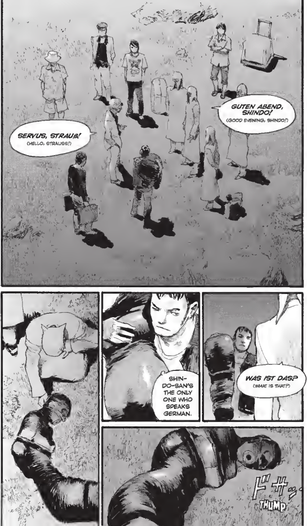

BUT THEN...
...WHAT IF THEY USE A JAMMER JUST IN CASE, AFTER THEY SPOT THE DUMMY TRANSMITTER?
YOU CAN'T BLOCK ULTRASONICS WITH A JAMMER.
THE BIGGER DANGER IS IF THEY GO AHEAD AND INSPECT EACH AND EVERY BILL.
WHAT ABOUT THAT POSSIBILITY, AZUMA-SAN?
THAT IS A CONCERN, OF COURSE. IF IT HAPPENS, WE'LL NEED TO ADJUST.
THIS IS SIMPLY A PLAN THAT WE FEEL GIVES US A 60-70% CHANCE OF SUCCESS.
WE KNOW FROM RESEARCH THAT SHINDO VISITS ISHIKUNAGIJIMA AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY MONTH.
THE DEAL'S IN THREE DAYS.
BUT WE'LL HAVE YOU FIVE ON THE ISLAND A DAY EARLIER.
SHOW EVERYONE THE BAG, SOLI.
WHAT'S THIS?
cicadas?
THE DOWNSIDE OF THE ULTRASONIC IS THAT IT DOESN'T CARRY VERY FAR COMPARED TO REGULAR WAVES.
SO WE WILL NEED DETECTORS AT SHORT INTERVALS.

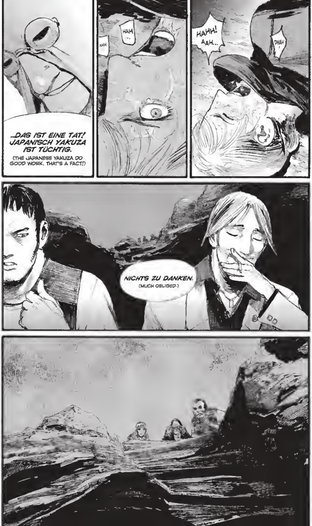

YOU WILL PLACE THESE EVERY 50 METERS, ALONG EVERY ROUTE FROM THE PORTS INTO THE ISLAND...
...AS NATURALLY AS YOU CAN. YOU ARE TOURISTS.
IT WAS AN INSANE REQUEST, BUT I'M GLAD WE PLAYED ALONG.
WE CAN SEE 'EM!
THE TOURISTS ONLY COME IN THROUGH SARU...
SHINOBU-SAN
NEVER FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE... WILL I FORGET WHAT WE JUST WENT THROUGH.
YET OUR HEARTS ARE AS ONE... I'M SO HAPPY.
WE DON'T HAVE A PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP, AND WE ONLY GOT DRUNK TOGETHER.
WHAT?!
HEH HEH... WHAT WOULD YOU SAY WE ARE?
I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT MY FINGERS BEING CUT ANY FURTHER

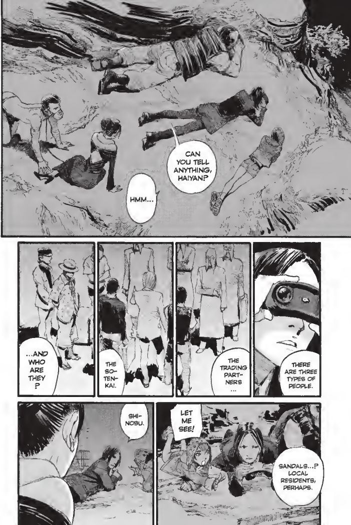

LISTEN, RO-SAN.
HUH ?
Y... YES ?!
THE GUYS WE'RE AFTER ARE YAKUZA... THEY'RE ARMED.
I'M JUST AN INNOCENT CIVILIAN... UNARMED.
THE PEOPLE WE'RE WITH ARE YAKUZA... THEY'RE ARMED.
...?
IT MAKES ME NERVOUS NOT TO HAVE A SHIELD... UNDERSTAND ?
HA HA... YEAH...

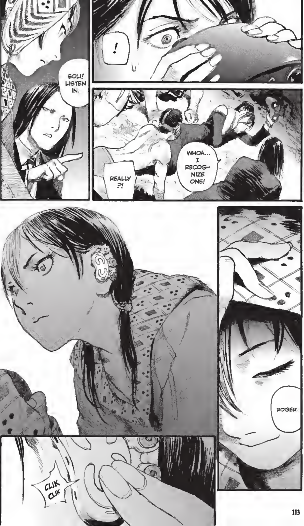

POP
POP
TIK
TIK

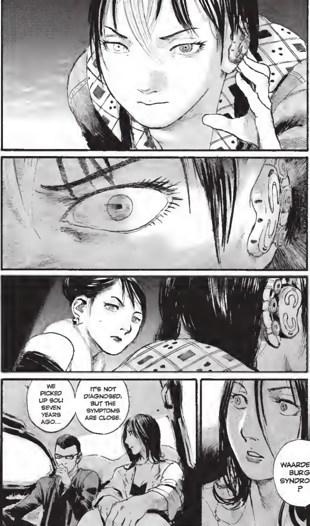


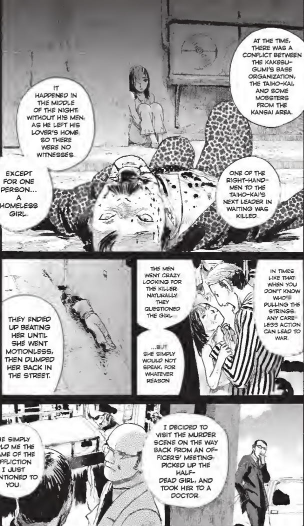

GUTEN ABEND, SHINDO!
(GOOD EVENING, SHINDO!)
SERVUS, STRAUß!
(HELLO, STRAUSS!)
WAS IST DAS?
(WHAT IS THAT?)
SHIN-DO-SAN'S THE ONLY ONE WHO SPEAKS GERMAN.
ドサッ
THUMP

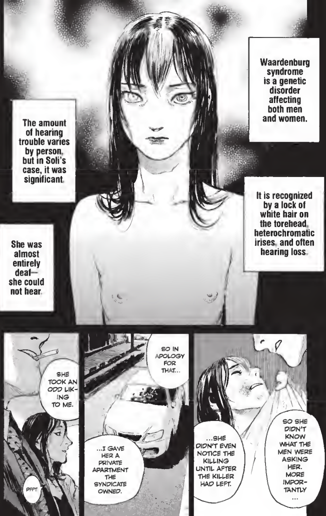

...DAS IST EINE TAT! JAPANISCH YAKUZA IST TÜCHTIG.
(THE JAPANESE YAKUZA DO GOOD WORK. THAT'S A FACT!)
AHH
HAH ...
HAHH! AAH...
DWAH !
NICHTS ZU DANKEN.
(MUCH OBLIGED.)

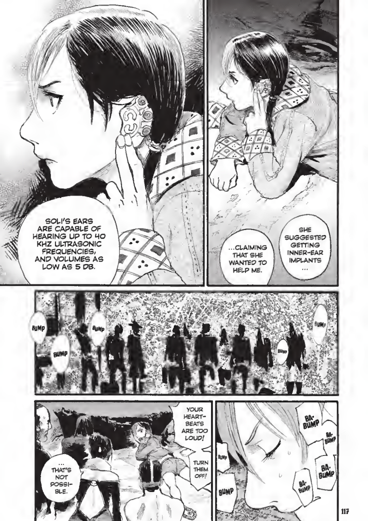

CAN YOU TELL ANYTHING, HAIYAN?
HMM...
THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF PEOPLE.
THE TRADING PARTNERS ...
THE SOTENKAI.
...AND WHO ARE THEY ?
LET ME SEE!
SANDALS...? LOCAL RESIDENTS, PERHAPS.
SHINOBU.

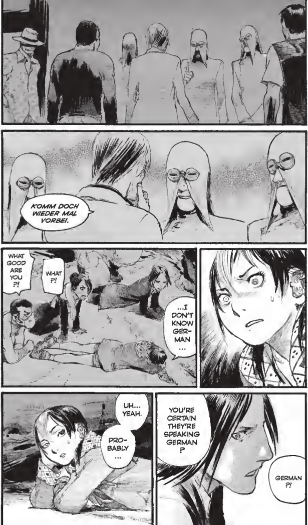

!
SOLI! LISTEN IN.
WHOA... I RECOGNIZE ONE!
REALLY ?!
ROGER
CLIK CLIK

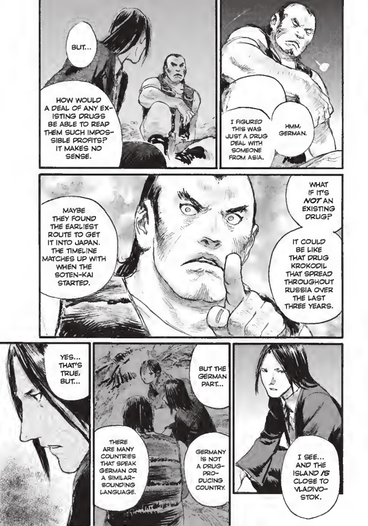

WAARDEN-BURG SYNDROME?
IT'S NOT DIAGNOSED, BUT THE SYMPTOMS ARE CLOSE.
WE PICKED UP SOLI SEVEN YEARS AGO...

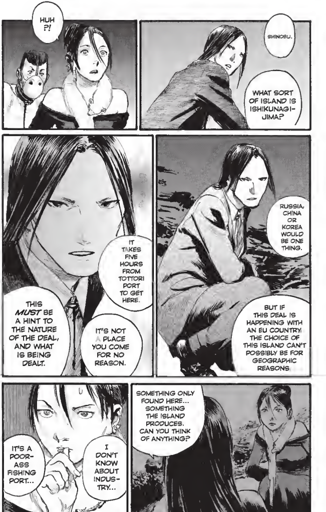

AT THE TIME, THERE WAS A CONFLICT BETWEEN THE KAKESU-GUMI'S BASE ORGANIZATION, THE TAIHO-KAI, AND SOME MOBSTERS FROM THE KANSAI AREA.
ONE OF THE RIGHT-HAND MEN TO THE TAIHO-KAI'S NEXT LEADER IN WAITING WAS KILLED.
IT HAPPENED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WITHOUT HIS MEN AS HE LEFT HIS LOVER'S HOME SO THERE WERE NO WITNESSES.
EXCEPT FOR ONE PERSON... A HOMELESS GIRL.
IN TIMES LIKE THAT WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW WHO'S PULLING THE STRINGS ANY CARELESS ACTION CAN LEAD TO WAR.
THE MEN WENT CRAZY LOOKING FOR THE KILLER NATURALLY THEY QUESTIONED THE GIRL.
...BUT SHE SIMPLY WOULD NOT SPEAK, FOR WHATEVER REASON
THEY ENDED UP BEATING HER UNTIL SHE WENT MOTIONLESS, THEN DUMPED HER BACK IN THE STREET.
I DECIDED TO VISIT THE MURDER SCENE ON THE WAY BACK FROM AN OFFICERS' MEETING PICKED UP THE HALF-DEAD GIRL, AND TOOK HER TO A DOCTOR.
HE SIMPLY TOLD ME THE NAME OF THE AFFLICTION I JUST MENTIONED TO YOU.

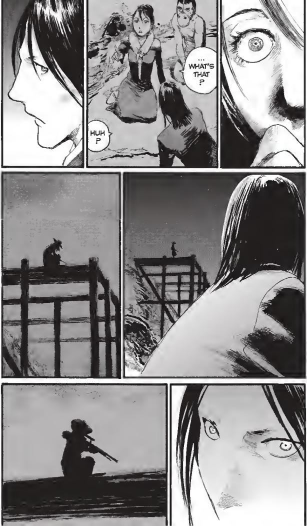

Waardenburg syndrome is a genetic disorder affecting both men and women.
It is recognized by a lock of white hair on the forehead, heterochromatic irises, and often hearing loss.
The amount of hearing trouble varies by person, but in Soli's case, it was significant.
She was almost entirely deaf—she could not hear.
SHE TOOK AN ODD LIKING TO ME.
PFFT
SO IN APOLOGY FOR THAT...
...I GAVE HER A PRIVATE APARTMENT THE SYNDICATE OWNED.
SO SHE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THE MEN WERE ASKING HER. MORE IMPORTANTLY...
...SHE DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THE KILLING UNTIL AFTER THE KILLER HAD LEFT.

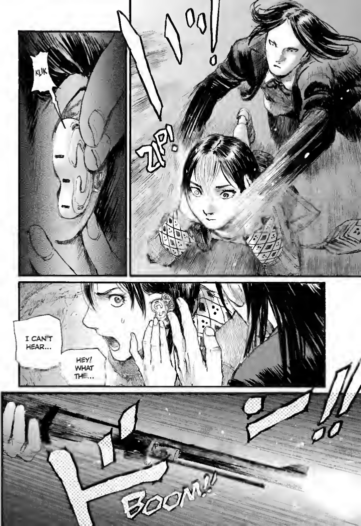

SHE SUGGESTED GETTING INNER-EAR IMPLANTS ...
...CLAIMING THAT SHE WANTED TO HELP ME.
SOLI'S EARS ARE CAPABLE OF HEARING UP TO 40 KHZ ULTRASONIC FREQUENCIES, AND VOLUMES AS LOW AS 5 DB.
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BUMP
YOUR HEART-BEATS ARE TOO LOUD!
TURN THEM OFF!
... THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE.

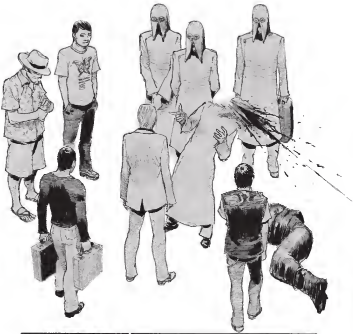

KOMM DOCH WIEDER MAL VORBEI.
...I DON'T KNOW GERMAN ...
WHAT ?!
WHAT GOOD ARE YOU ?!
GERMAN ?!
YOU'RE CERTAIN THEY'RE SPEAKING GERMAN ?
UH... YEAH.
PROBABLY ...

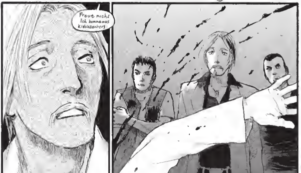

HMM, GERMAN.
I FIGURED THIS WAS JUST A DRUG DEAL WITH SOMEONE FROM ASIA.
BUT...
HOW WOULD A DEAL OF ANY EXISTING DRUGS BE ABLE TO REAP THEM SUCH IMPOSSIBLE PROFITS? IT MAKES NO SENSE.
WHAT IF IT'S *NOT* AN EXISTING DRUG?
IT COULD BE LIKE THAT DRUG KROKODIL THAT SPREAD THROUGHOUT RUSSIA OVER THE LAST THREE YEARS.
MAYBE THEY FOUND THE EARLIEST ROUTE TO GET IT INTO JAPAN. THE TIMELINE MATCHES UP WITH WHEN THE SOTEN-KAI STARTED.
I SEE... AND THE ISLAND *IS* CLOSE TO VLADIVOSTOK.
BUT THE GERMAN PART...
GERMANY IS NOT A DRUG-PRODUCING COUNTRY.
THERE ARE MANY COUNTRIES THAT SPEAK GERMAN OR A SIMILAR-SOUNDING LANGUAGE.
YES... THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

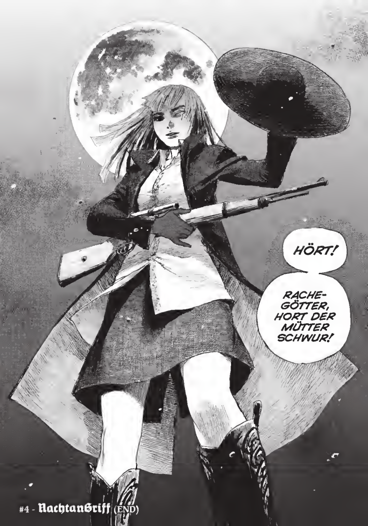

SHINOBU.
WHAT SORT OF ISLAND IS ISHIKUNAGI-JIMA?
HUH ?!
RUSSIA, CHINA OR KOREA WOULD BE ONE THING.
BUT IF THIS DEAL IS HAPPENING WITH AN EU COUNTRY, THE CHOICE OF THIS ISLAND CAN'T POSSIBLY BE FOR GEOGRAPHIC REASONS.
IT TAKES FIVE HOURS FROM TOTTORI PORT TO GET HERE.
IT'S NOT A PLACE YOU COME FOR NO REASON.
THIS *MUST* BE A HINT TO THE NATURE OF THE DEAL, AND WHAT IS BEING DEALT.
SOMETHING ONLY FOUND HERE... SOMETHING THE ISLAND PRODUCES. CAN YOU THINK OF ANYTHING?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT INDUSTRY...
IT'S A POOR-ASS FISHING PORT...


... WHAT'S THAT ?
HUH ?


ZIP!
KLIK
HEY! WHAT THE...
I CAN'T HEAR...
BOOM!!

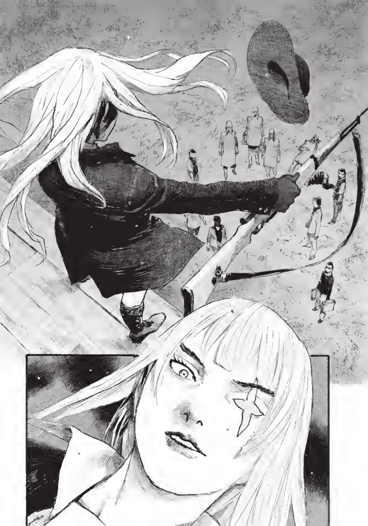


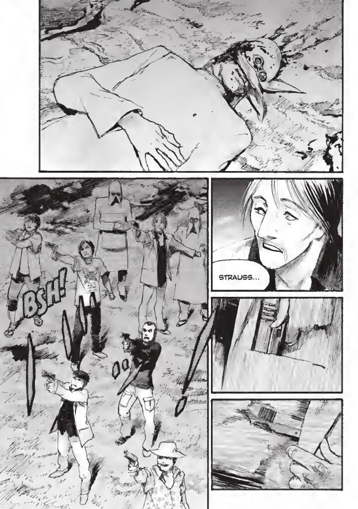

Freut mich! Ich komme aus Klebizenberg

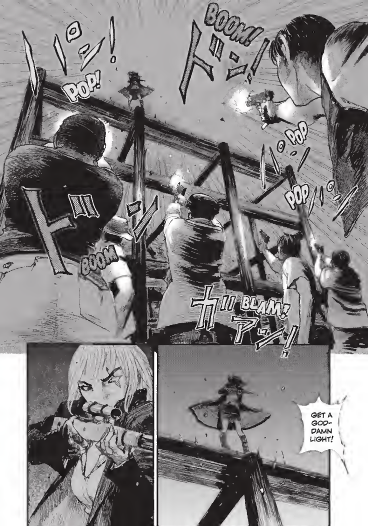

HÖRT!
RACHEGÖTTER, HORT DER MÜTTER SCHWUR!

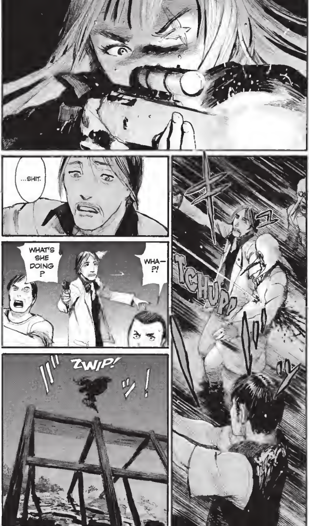
#4 - Nachtangriff (END)

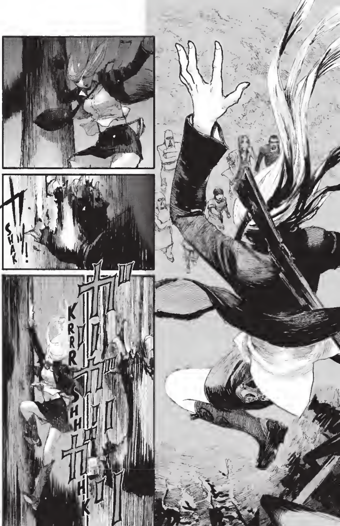
#5 - Chikai (Oath)

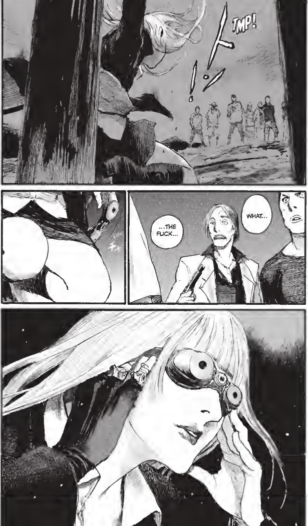


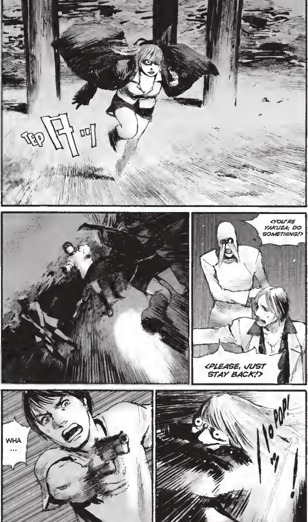

STRAUSS...
BSH!

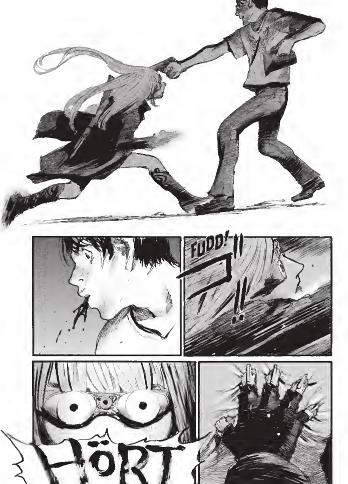

BOOM!
ドンッ!
POP!
パンッ!
POP POP
パパッ
BOOM
ドンッ
BLAM!
ガァンッ!
GET A GOD-DAMN LIGHT!

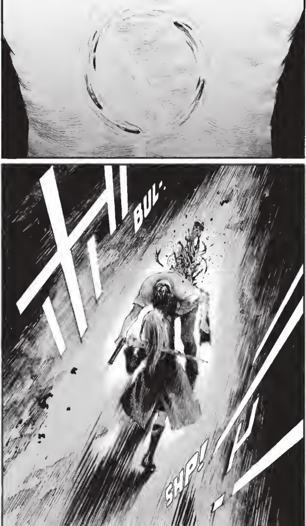

TCHUPP
...SHIT.
WHAT'S SHE DOING?
WHA—?!
ZWIP!
ッ!

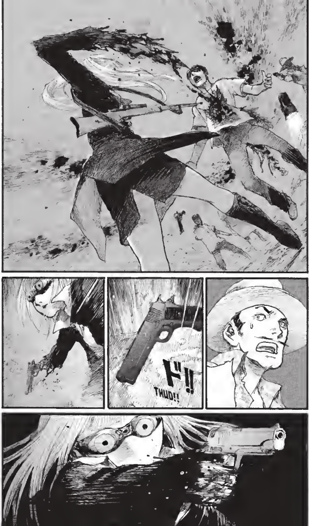

ザッ!!
SHAK!
ガロロガロロガロロ
KRRR SHHHHK

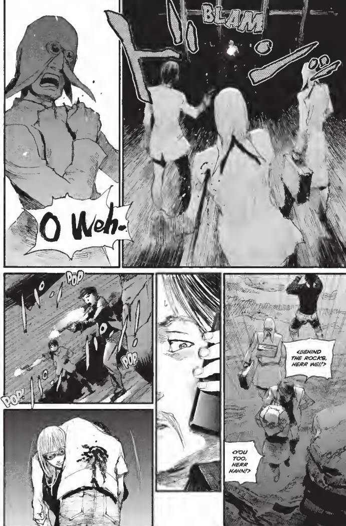

TMP!
WHAT...
...THE FUCK...

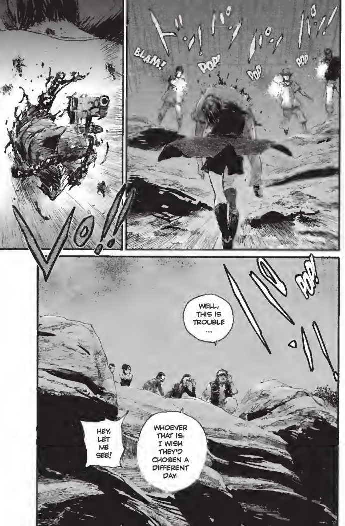

TEP
タッ
<YOU'RE YAKUZA; DO SOMETHING!?>
<PLEASE, JUST STAY BACK!?>
POP!
WHA …

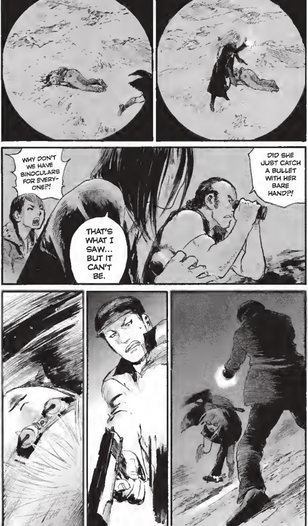

FUDD!
HÖRT

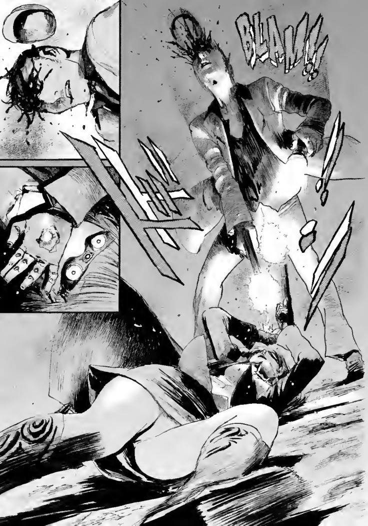

BUL:
SHP!

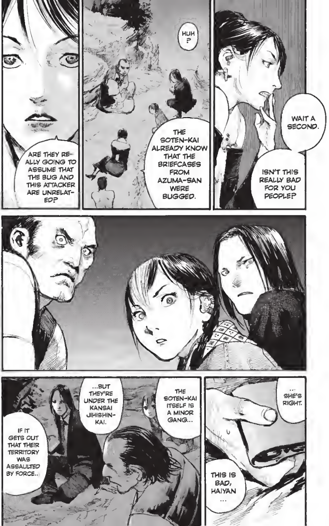

ド!!
THUD!!

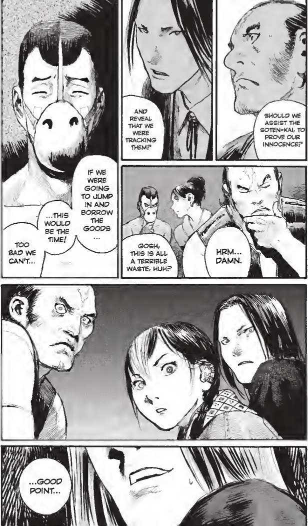

O Weh-
BLAM
POP
POP
POP!
<BEHIND THE ROCKS, HERR WEI!>
<YOU TOO, HERR HAHN!>

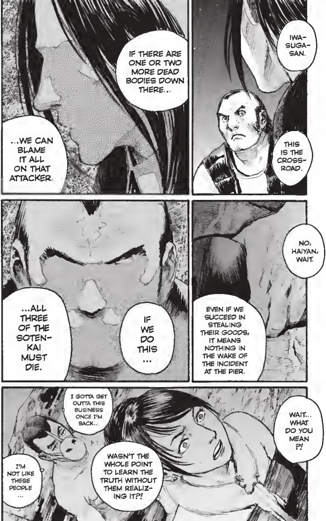

ドッ!パッ!パッ!パッ!!
BLAM!
POP!
POP
POP
パッ!!
POP!
WELL, THIS IS TROUBLE ...
WHOEVER THAT IS I WISH THEY'D CHOSEN A DIFFERENT DAY.
HEY, LET ME SEE!

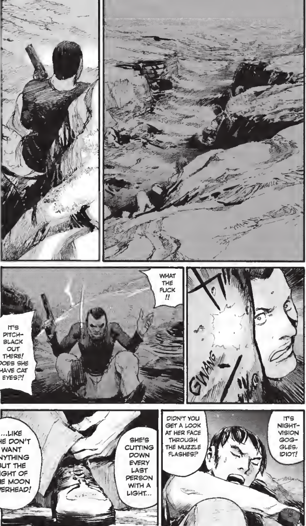

DID SHE JUST CATCH A BULLET WITH HER BARE HAND?!
THAT'S WHAT I SAW... BUT IT CAN'T BE.
WHY DON'T WE HAVE BINOCULARS FOR EVERYONE?!

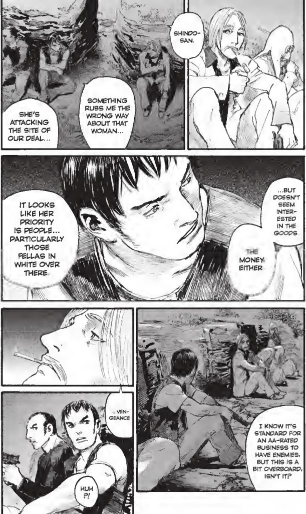

BLAM!!
!!

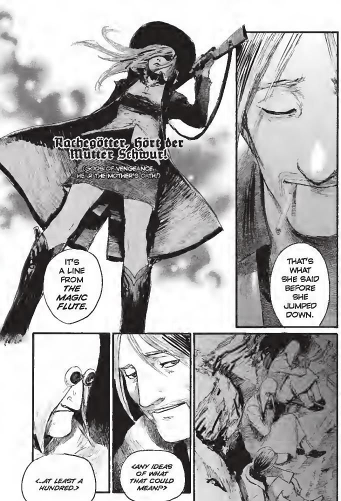

WAIT A SECOND.
ISN'T THIS REALLY BAD FOR YOU PEOPLE?
HUH?
THE SOTEN-KAI ALREADY KNOW THAT THE BRIEFCASES FROM AZUMA-SAN WERE BUGGED.
ARE THEY REALLY GOING TO ASSUME THAT THE BUG AND THIS ATTACKER ARE UNRELATED?
... SHE'S RIGHT.
THIS IS BAD, HAIYAN ...
THE SOTEN-KAI ITSELF IS A MINOR GANG...
...BUT THEY'RE UNDER THE KANSAI JIHISHIN-KAI.
IF IT GETS OUT THAT THEIR TERRITORY WAS ASSAULTED BY FORCE..

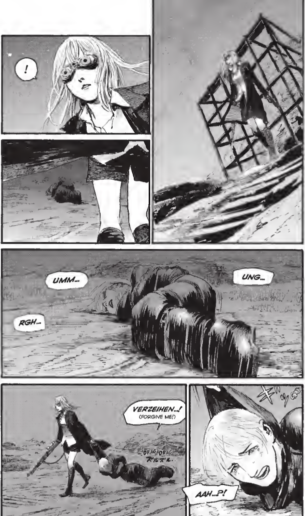

SHOULD WE ASSIST THE SOTEN-KAI, TO PROVE OUR INNOCENCE?
AND REVEAL THAT WE WERE TRACKING THEM?
IF WE WERE GOING TO JUMP IN AND BORROW THE GOODS ...
...THIS WOULD BE THE TIME!
TOO BAD WE CAN'T...
GOSH, THIS IS ALL A TERRIBLE WASTE, HUH?
HRM... DAMN.
...GOOD POINT...

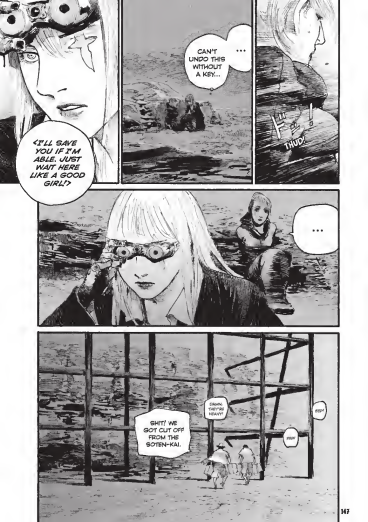

IWA-SUGA-SAN.
THIS IS THE CROSSROAD.
IF THERE ARE ONE OR TWO MORE DEAD BODIES DOWN THERE...
...WE CAN BLAME IT ALL ON THAT ATTACKER.
NO, HAIYAN, WAIT.
EVEN IF WE SUCCEED IN STEALING THEIR GOODS, IT MEANS NOTHING IN THE WAKE OF THE INCIDENT AT THE PIER.
IF WE DO THIS ...
...ALL THREE OF THE SOTEN-KAI MUST DIE.
WAIT... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
WASN'T THE WHOLE POINT TO LEARN THE TRUTH WITHOUT THEM REALIZING IT?!
I GOTTA GET OUTTA THIS BUSINESS ONCE I'M BACK..
I'M NOT LIKE THESE PEOPLE ...

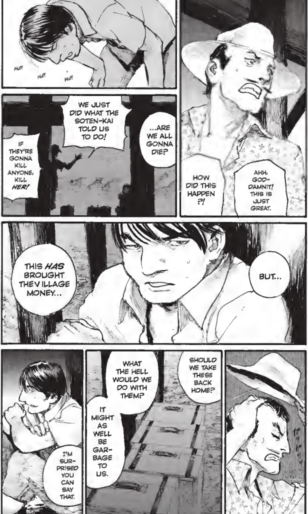

WHAT THE FUCK !!
IT'S PITCH-BLACK OUT THERE! DOES SHE HAVE CAT EYES?!
GWANG
SHE'S CUTTING DOWN EVERY LAST PERSON WITH A LIGHT...
...LIKE SHE DON'T WANT ANYTHING BUT THE LIGHT OF THE MOON OVERHEAD!
DIDN'T YOU GET A LOOK AT HER FACE THROUGH THE MUZZLE FLASHES?
IT'S NIGHT-VISION GOGGLES, IDIOT!

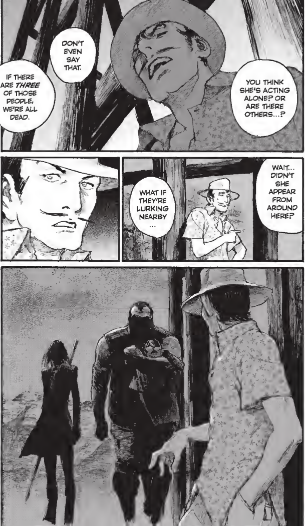

SHINDO-SAN.
SOMETHING RUBS ME THE WRONG WAY ABOUT THAT WOMAN...
SHE'S ATTACKING THE SITE OF OUR DEAL...
...BUT DOESN'T SEEM INTERESTED IN THE GOODS
THE MONEY EITHER
IT LOOKS LIKE HER PRIORITY IS PEOPLE... PARTICULARLY THOSE FELLAS IN WHITE OVER THERE.
I KNOW IT'S STANDARD FOR AN AA-RATED BUSINESS TO HAVE ENEMIES, BUT THIS IS A BIT OVERBOARD, ISN'T IT?
...VENGEANCE
HUH ?!


THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID BEFORE SHE JUMPED DOWN.
Rachegötter, Hört der Mutter Schwur!
(GODS OF VENGEANCE, HEAR THE MOTHER'S OATH!)
IT'S A LINE FROM *THE MAGIC FLUTE.*
<ANY IDEAS OF WHAT THAT COULD MEAN?>
<...AT LEAST A HUNDRED.>

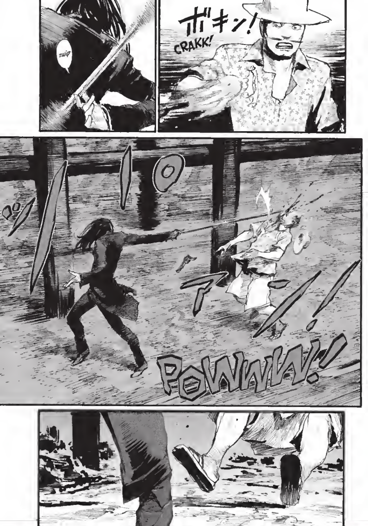

!
UNG...
UMM...
RGH...
ギリッ
GRR
AAH...?!
VERZEIHEN...!
(FORGIVE ME!)
DRAG DRAG
ズルズル

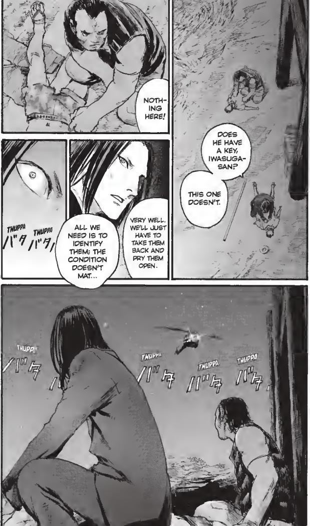

THUD!
CAN'T UNDO THIS WITHOUT A KEY...
...
<I'LL SAVE YOU IF I'M ABLE. JUST WAIT HERE LIKE A GOOD GIRL!>
...
EEP!
EEP!
DAMN. THEY'RE HEAVY!
SHIT! WE GOT CUT OFF FROM THE SOTEN-KAI.

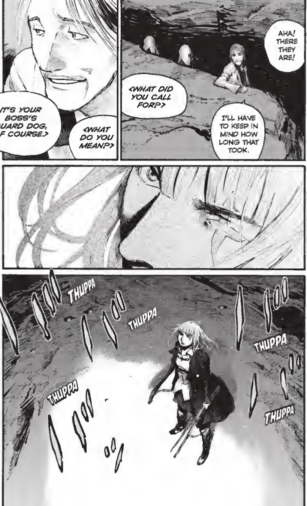

AHH, GOD-DAMNIT! THIS IS JUST GREAT.
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?!
HUFF HUFF HUFF
...ARE WE ALL GONNA DIE?
WE JUST DID WHAT THE SOTEN-KAI TOLD US TO DO!
IF THEY'RE GONNA KILL ANYONE, KILL *HER!*
BUT...
THIS *HAS* BROUGHT THE VILLAGE MONEY...
SCRATCH SCRATCH
SHOULD WE TAKE THESE BACK HOME?
WHAT THE HELL WOULD WE DO WITH THEM?
IT MIGHT AS WELL BE GARBAGE TO US.
I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN SAY THAT.

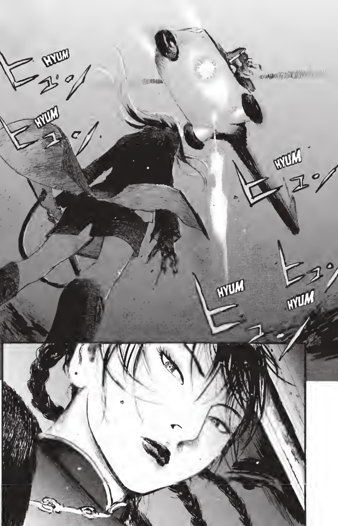

YOU THINK SHE'S ACTING ALONE? OR ARE THERE OTHERS...?
DON'T EVEN SAY THAT.
IF THERE ARE *THREE* OF THOSE PEOPLE, WE'RE ALL DEAD.
WAIT... DIDN'T SHE APPEAR FROM AROUND HERE?
WHAT IF THEY'RE LURKING NEARBY...

SHK!!
バッ!!


ボキン!
CRAKK!
zwip
POWWW!


DOES HE HAVE A KEY, IWASUGA-SAN?
THIS ONE DOESN'T.
NOTHING HERE!
VERY WELL. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE THEM BACK AND PRY THEM OPEN.
ALL WE NEED IS TO IDENTIFY THEM; THE CONDITION DOESN'T MAT...
THUPPA バタ
THUPPA バタ
THUPPA バタ
THUPPA バタ
THUPPA バタ
THUPPA バタ


AHA! THERE THEY ARE!
I'LL HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND HOW LONG THAT TOOK.
<WHAT DID YOU CALL FOR?>
<IT'S YOUR BOSS'S GUARD DOG, OF COURSE.>
<WHAT DO YOU MEAN?>
THUPPA
THUPPA
THUPPA
THUPPA
THUPPA


ヒュン
HYUM
ヒュン
HYUM
ヒュン
HYUM
ヒュン
HYUM
ヒュン
HYUM
ヒュン
HYUM

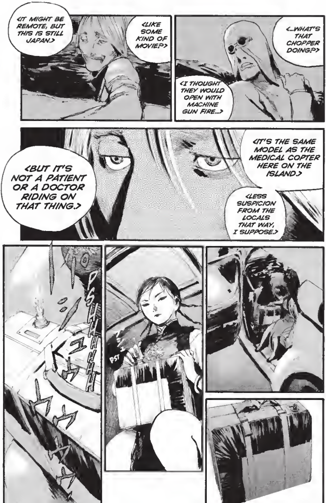
#5 - **Chikai** (END)

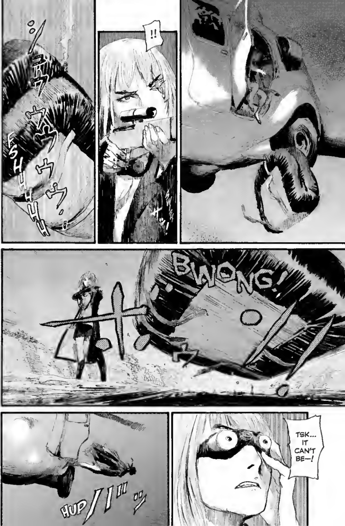
#6

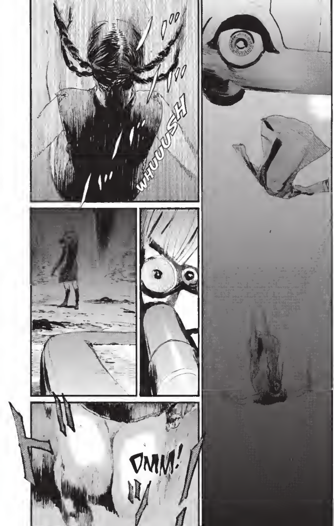
Ansharen

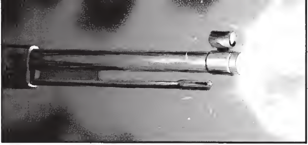
(Assassin)

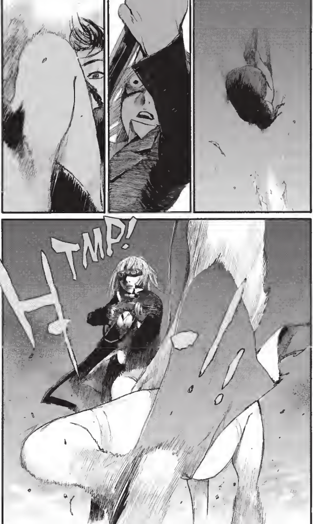
HYUM ヒュ
HYUM ヒュ
HYUM ヒュ
HYUM ヒュ
HYUM ヒュ
HYUM ヒュ

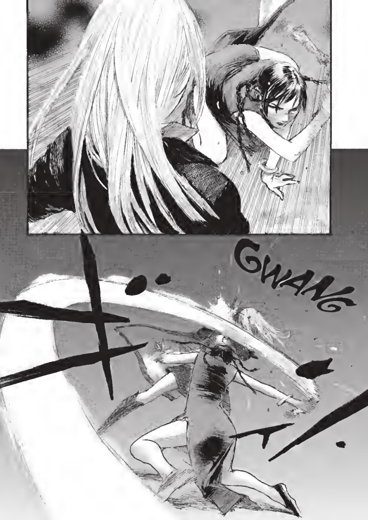

<...WHAT'S THAT CHOPPER DOING?>
<I THOUGHT THEY WOULD OPEN WITH MACHINE GUN FIRE...>
<LIKE SOME KIND OF MOVIE?>
<IT MIGHT BE REMOTE, BUT THIS IS STILL JAPAN.>
<IT'S THE SAME MODEL AS THE MEDICAL COPTER HERE ON THE ISLAND.>
<LESS SUSPICION FROM THE LOCALS THAT WAY, I SUPPOSE.>
<BUT IT'S NOT A PATIENT OR A DOCTOR RIDING ON THAT THING.>
PSHHHHH
PST

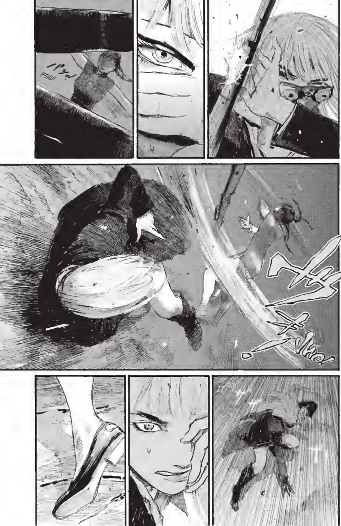

!!
FSHHHHHH
BWONG!
TSK... IT CAN'T BE—!
HUP

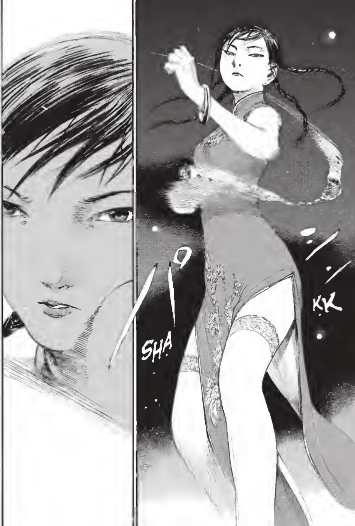

WHUUUSH
DMM!

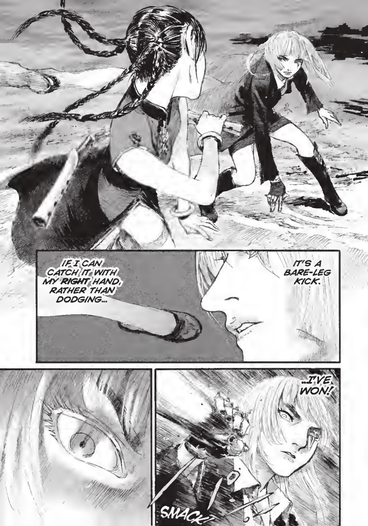


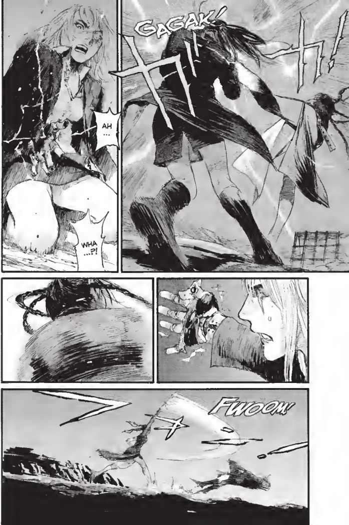

TMP!

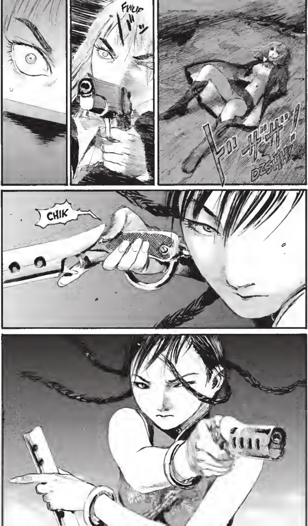

GWANG

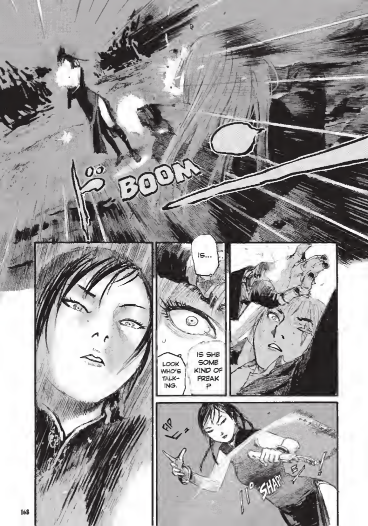

パシッ
PSHU!
ズオッ！
VWO!

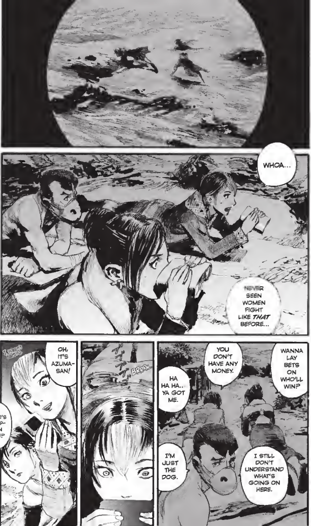

KK
SHA

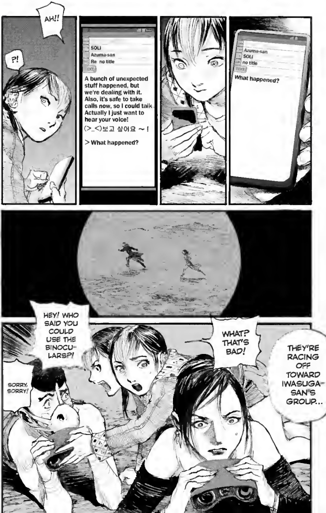

IT'S A BARE-LEG KICK.
IF I CAN CATCH IT WITH MY RIGHT HAND, RATHER THAN DODGING...
...I'VE WON!
SMACK


GAGAK!
AH ...
WHA ...?!
FWOOM!


ドョザザザ!
DZSHH!
バッ
FWUP
CHIK


BOOM
IS...
IS SHE SOME KIND OF FREAK ?
LOOK WHO'S TALK-ING.
FIP
SHAP!


WHOA...
NEVER SEEN WOMEN FIGHT LIKE *THAT* BEFORE...
WANNA LAY BETS ON WHO'LL WIN?
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.
HA HA HA... YA GOT ME.
I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.
I'M JUST THE DOG.
BRRRM
OH, IT'S AZUMA-SAN!
THERE'S RECEPTION HERE?



Azuma-san
SOLI
no title

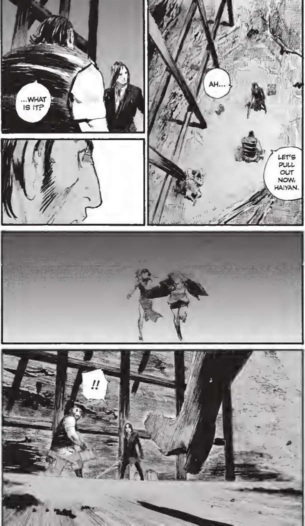
What happened?

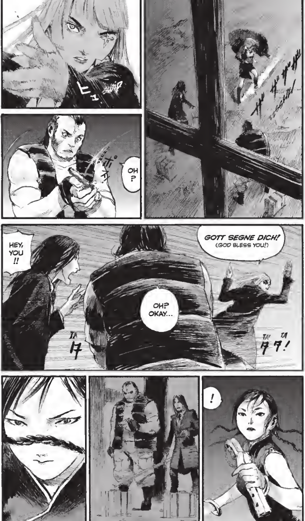
SOLI
Azuma-san
Re no title

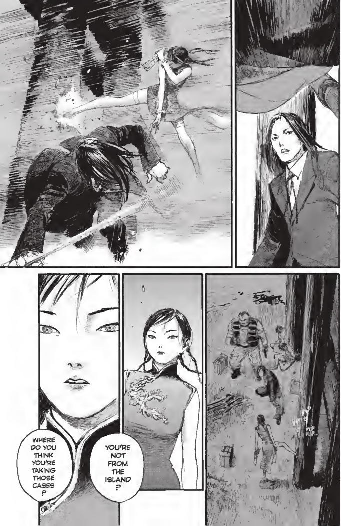
A bunch of unexpected stuff happened, but we're dealing with it. Also, it's safe to take calls now, so I could talk. Actually I just want to hear your voice!
(>_<)보고 싶어요 ~!

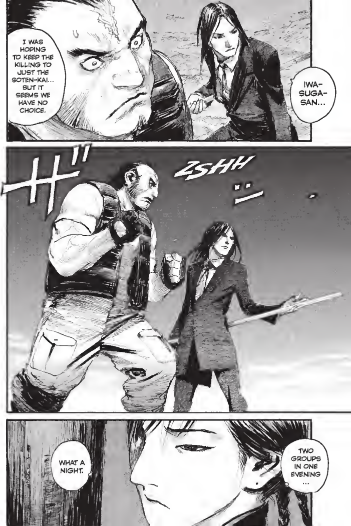
> What happened?

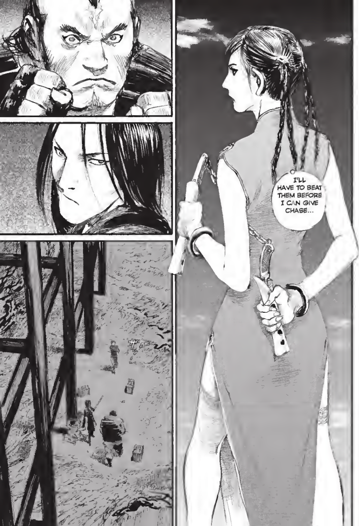
TEXT
TEXT
AH!!
?!
THEY'RE RACING OFF TOWARD IWASUGA-SAN'S GROUP...
WHAT? THAT'S BAD!
HEY! WHO SAID YOU COULD USE THE BINOCULARS?!
SORRY, SORRY!

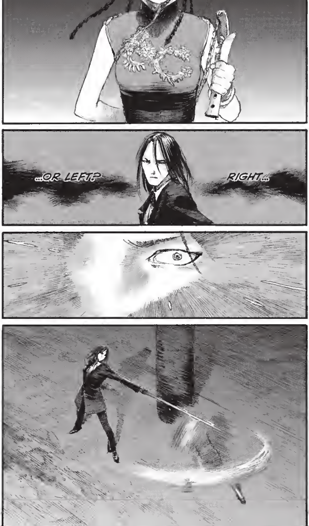

AH...
LET'S PULL OUT NOW, HAIYAN.
...WHAT IS IT?
!!

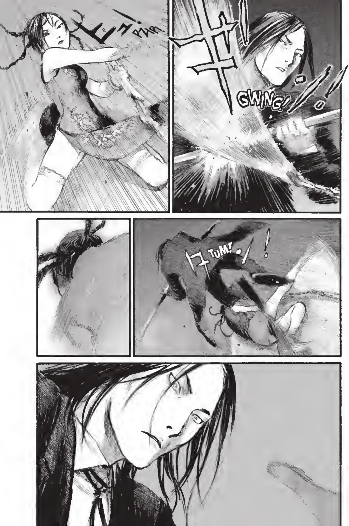

ザザザザ
ZZSSHH
ヒュ
SWIP
ポォ
OH ?
GOTT SEGNE DICH!
(GOD BLESS YOU!)
OH? OKAY...
HEY, YOU !!
TA TA
タタ!
TA
タ
!

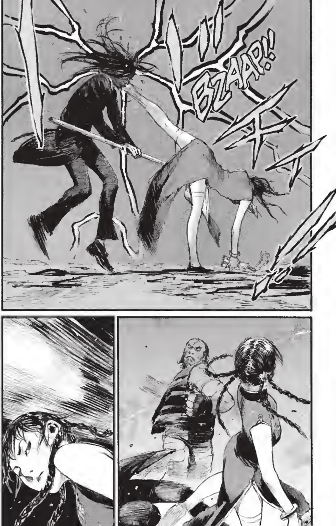

FLIP FLIP...
YOU'RE NOT FROM THE ISLAND ?
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE TAKING THOSE CASES ?

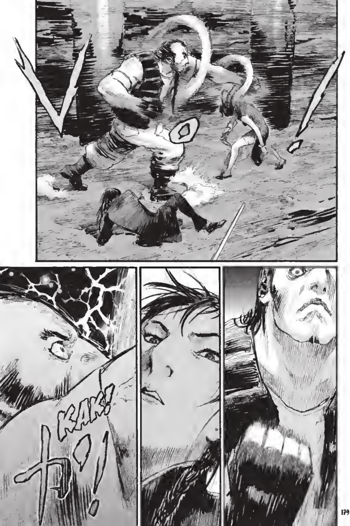

IWA-SUGA-SAN...
I WAS HOPING TO KEEP THE KILLING TO JUST THE SOTEN-KAI... BUT IT SEEMS WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
ザ
ZSHH
ッ
TWO GROUPS IN ONE EVENING...
WHAT A NIGHT.

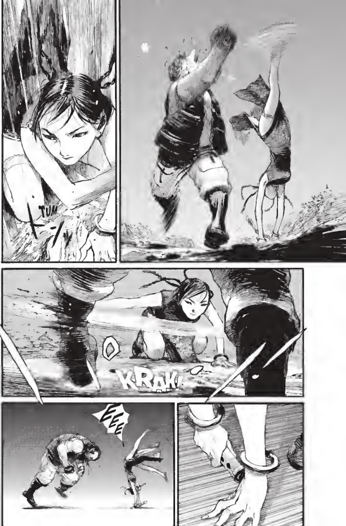

I'LL HAVE TO BEAT THEM BEFORE I CAN GIVE CHASE...
SHK

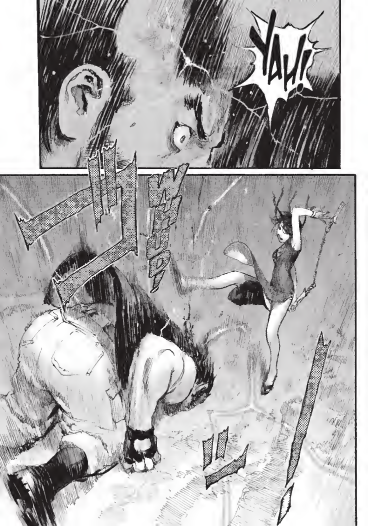

RIGHT...
...OR LEFT?

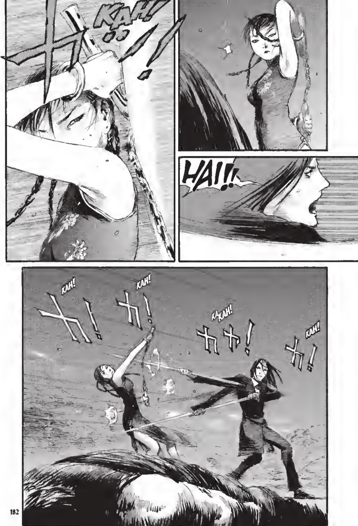

ピッ! PIXA.
ギ!! GWING!!!
ト TUM! !!

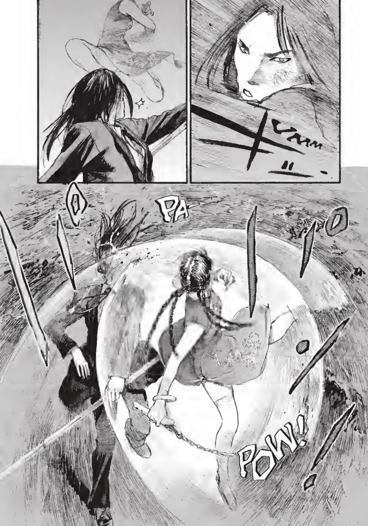

BZAAP!!

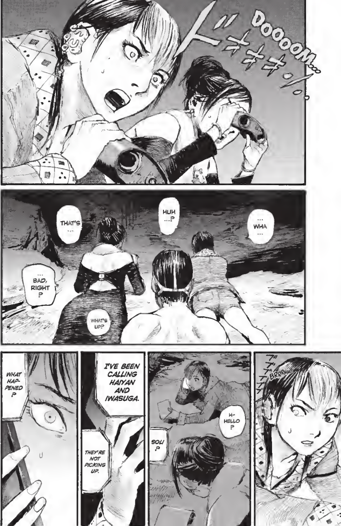

V
O
!
KAK!
カッ!


TUM
KRAK!
EEE


YAH!
ゴ
WHUD!
ッ!

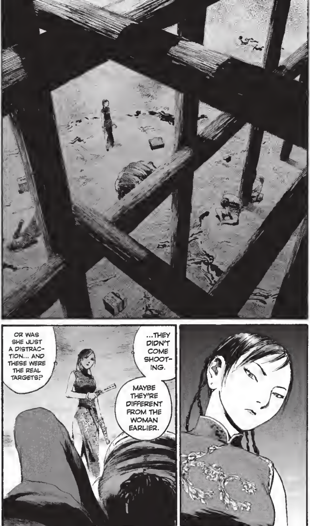

HAI!!
カ
KAH!
KAH!
カ!
KA KAH!
カカ!
KAH!
カ!
KAH!
カ!

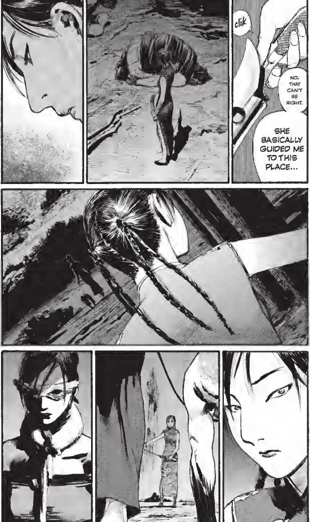

VMM
PA-
POW!

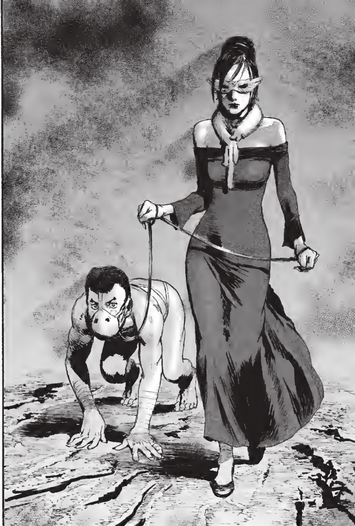

ドォォォ
DOOOOOM...
... WHA ...
HUH ...?
THAT'S ...
... BAD, RIGHT ?
WHAT'S UP?
ブ
BRRRM
H- HELLO ?
SOU ?
I'VE BEEN CALLING HAIYAN AND IWASUGA.
THEY'RE NOT PICKING UP.
WHAT HAPPENED ?

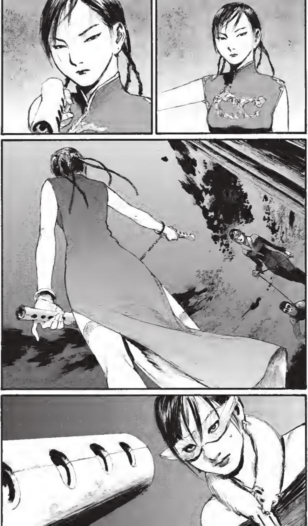
#6 - **Ansharen** (END)

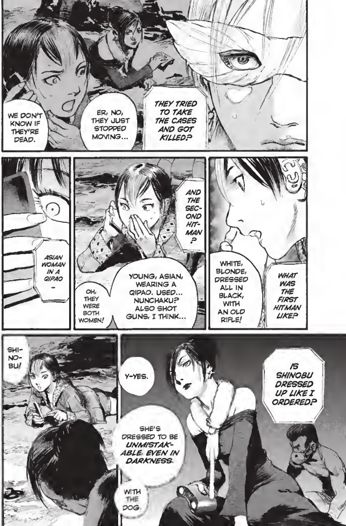
#7 - **Blut** (Blood)

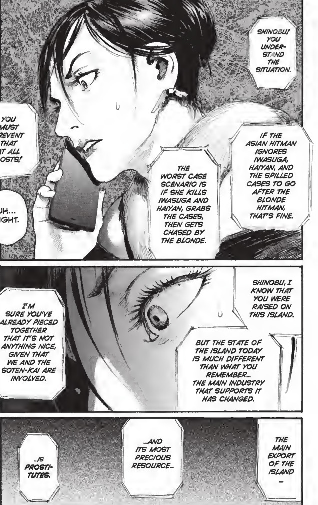

...THEY DIDN'T COME SHOOTING.
MAYBE THEY'RE DIFFERENT FROM THE WOMAN EARLIER.
OR WAS SHE JUST A DISTRACTION... AND THESE WERE THE REAL TARGETS?

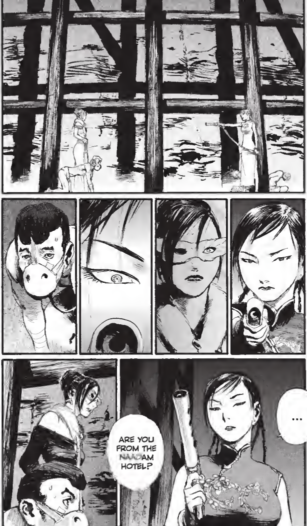

clik
NO, THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT.
SHE BASICALLY GUIDED ME TO THIS PLACE...

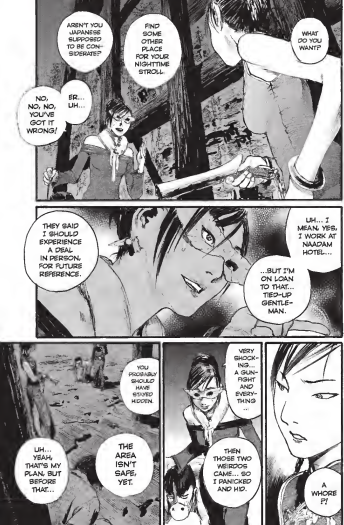


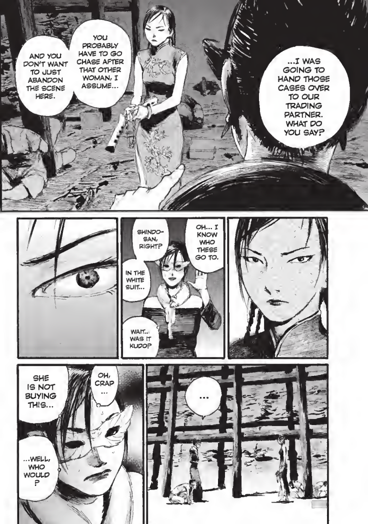


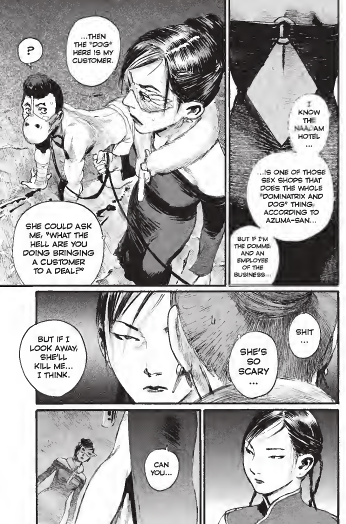

THEY TRIED TO TAKE THE CASES AND GOT KILLED?
ER, NO, THEY JUST STOPPED MOVING...
WE DON'T KNOW IF THEY'RE DEAD.
WHAT WAS THE FIRST HITMAN LIKE?
WHITE, BLONDE, DRESSED ALL IN BLACK, WITH AN OLD RIFLE!
AND THE SECOND HITMAN?
YOUNG, ASIAN, WEARING A QIPAO. USED... NUNCHAKU? ALSO SHOT GUNS, I THINK...
OH, THEY WERE BOTH WOMEN!
ASIAN WOMAN IN A QIPAO ...
IS SHINOBU DRESSED UP LIKE I ORDERED?
Y-YES.
SHE'S DRESSED TO BE UNMISTAKABLE EVEN IN DARKNESS.
WITH THE DOG.
SHINOBU!

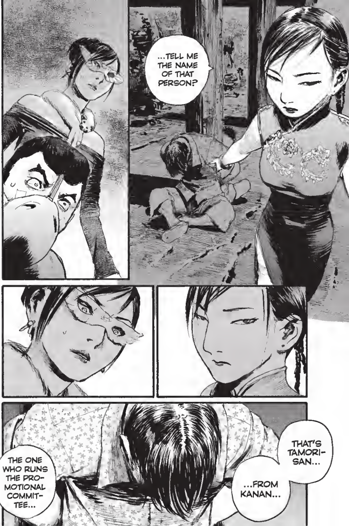

SHINOBU! YOU UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION.
IF THE ASIAN HITMAN IGNORES IWASUGA, HAIYAN, AND THE SPILLED CASES TO GO AFTER THE BLONDE HITMAN, THAT'S FINE.
THE WORST CASE SCENARIO IS IF SHE KILLS IWASUGA AND HAIYAN, GRABS THE CASES, THEN GETS CHASED BY THE BLONDE.
YOU MUST PREVENT THAT AT ALL COSTS!
UH... RIGHT.
SHINOBU, I KNOW THAT YOU WERE RAISED ON THIS ISLAND.
BUT THE STATE OF THE ISLAND TODAY IS MUCH DIFFERENT THAN WHAT YOU REMEMBER... THE MAIN INDUSTRY THAT SUPPORTS IT HAS CHANGED.
I'M SURE YOU'VE ALREADY PIECED TOGETHER THAT IT'S NOT ANYTHING NICE, GIVEN THAT WE AND THE SOTEN-KAI ARE INVOLVED.
THE MAIN EXPORT OF THE ISLAND ...
...AND ITS MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE...
...IS PROSTITUTES.

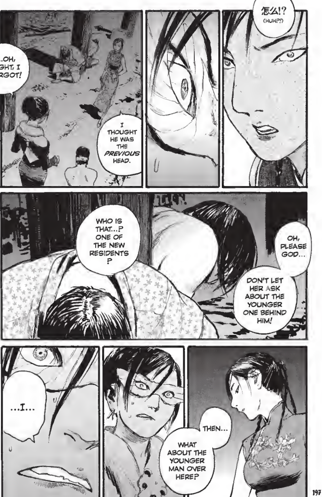

ARE YOU FROM THE NAADAM HOTEL?
...

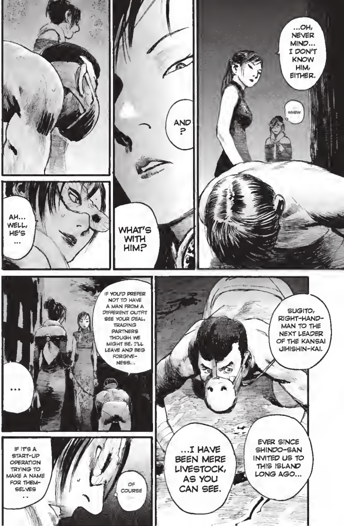

WHAT DO YOU WANT?
FIND SOME OTHER PLACE FOR YOUR NIGHTTIME STROLL.
AREN'T YOU JAPANESE SUPPOSED TO BE CONSIDERATE?
ER... UH...
NO, NO, NO, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG!
UH... I MEAN, YES, I WORK AT NAADAM HOTEL...
...BUT I'M ON LOAN TO THAT... TIED-UP GENTLEMAN.
THEY SAID I SHOULD EXPERIENCE A DEAL IN PERSON, FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.
A WHORE?!
VERY SHOCKING... A GUNFIGHT AND EVERYTHING...
THEN THOSE TWO WEIRDOS CAME... SO I PANICKED AND HID.
YOU PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE STAYED HIDDEN.
THE AREA ISN'T SAFE, YET.
UH... YEAH, THAT'S MY PLAN, BUT BEFORE THAT...

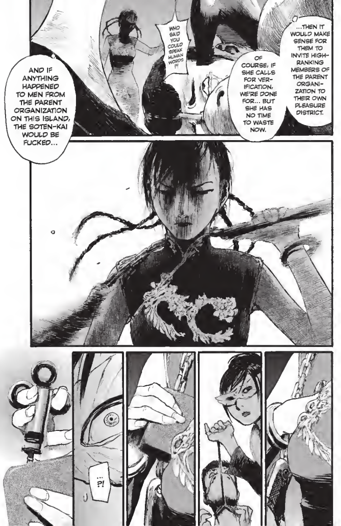

...I WAS GOING TO HAND THOSE CASES OVER TO OUR TRADING PARTNER. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
YOU PROBABLY HAVE TO GO CHASE AFTER THAT OTHER WOMAN, I ASSUME...
AND YOU DON'T WANT TO JUST ABANDON THE SCENE HERE.
OH... I KNOW WHO THESE GO TO.
SHINDO-SAN, RIGHT?
IN THE WHITE SUIT...
WAIT.. WAS IT KUDO?
...
OH, CRAP ...
SHE IS NOT BUYING THIS...
...WELL, WHO WOULD ?

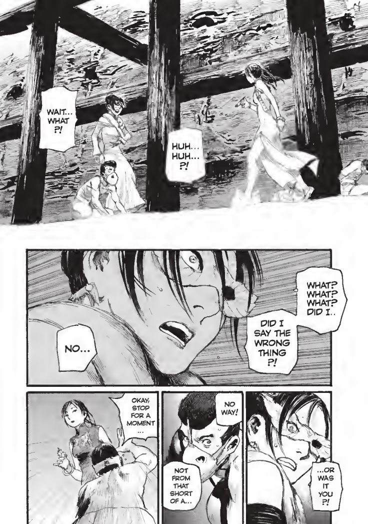

I KNOW THE NAADAM HOTEL...
...IS ONE OF THOSE SEX SHOPS THAT DOES THE WHOLE "DOMINATRIX AND DOG" THING, ACCORDING TO AZUMA-SAN...
BUT IF I'M THE DOMME AND AN EMPLOYEE OF THE BUSINESS...
...THEN THE "DOG" HERE IS MY CUSTOMER.
?
SHE COULD ASK ME, "WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING BRINGING A CUSTOMER TO A DEAL?"
SHIT...
SHE'S SO SCARY...
BUT IF I LOOK AWAY, SHE'LL KILL ME... I THINK.
CAN YOU...

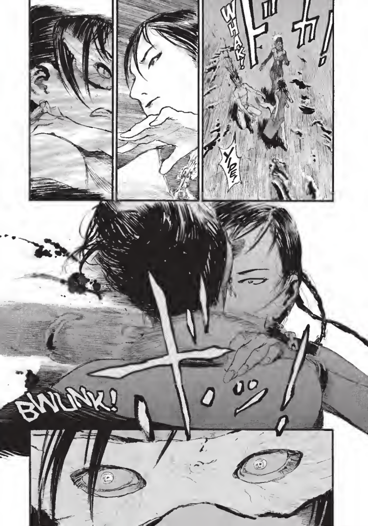

...TELL ME THE NAME OF THAT PERSON?
THAT'S TAMORI-SAN...
...FROM KANAN...
THE ONE WHO RUNS THE PROMOTIONAL COMMITTEE...

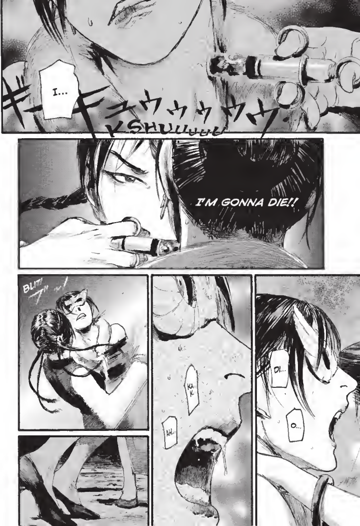

...OH, RIGHT, I FORGOT!
I THOUGHT HE WAS THE *PREVIOUS* HEAD.
怎么!? (HUH?!)
WHO IS THAT...? ONE OF THE NEW RESIDENTS?
OH, PLEASE GOD...
DON'T LET HER ASK ABOUT THE YOUNGER ONE BEHIND HIM!
...I...
THEN...
WHAT ABOUT THE YOUNGER MAN OVER HERE?

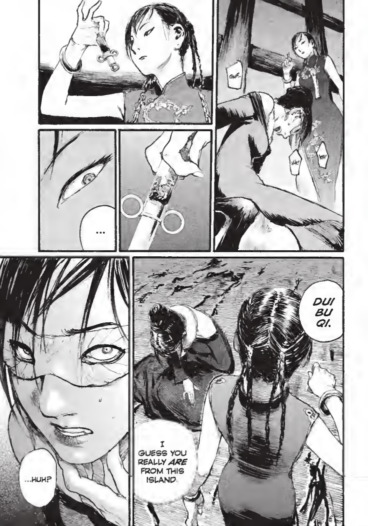

AND ?
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
AH... WELL, HE'S ...
...OH, NEVER MIND... I DON'T KNOW HIM, EITHER.
WHEW
SUGITO, RIGHT-HAND-MAN TO THE NEXT LEADER OF THE KANSAI JIHISHIN-KAI.
EVER SINCE SHINDO-SAN INVITED US TO THIS ISLAND LONG AGO...
...I HAVE BEEN MERE LIVESTOCK, AS YOU CAN SEE.
IF YOU'D PREFER NOT TO HAVE A MAN FROM A DIFFERENT OUTFIT SEE YOUR DEAL, TRADING PARTNERS THOUGH WE MIGHT BE, I'LL LEAVE AND BEG FORGIVENESS...
...
IF IT'S A START-UP OPERATION TRYING TO MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES ..
OF COURSE

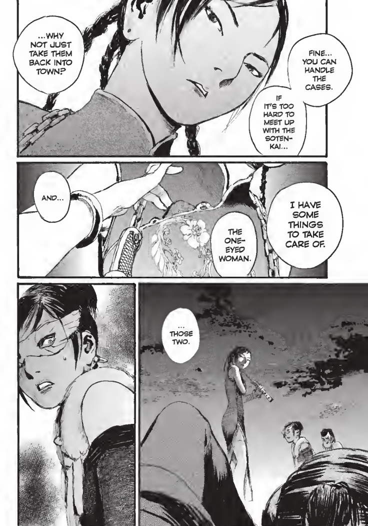

...THEN IT WOULD MAKE SENSE FOR THEM TO INVITE HIGH-RANKING MEMBERS OF THE PARENT ORGANIZATION TO THEIR OWN PLEASURE DISTRICT.
OF COURSE, IF SHE CALLS FOR VERIFICATION, WE'RE DONE FOR... BUT SHE HAS NO TIME TO WASTE NOW.
WHO SAID YOU COULD SPEAK HUMAN WORDS?!
AND IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO MEN FROM THE PARENT ORGANIZATION ON THIS ISLAND, THE SOTEN-KAI WOULD BE FUCKED...
...?!

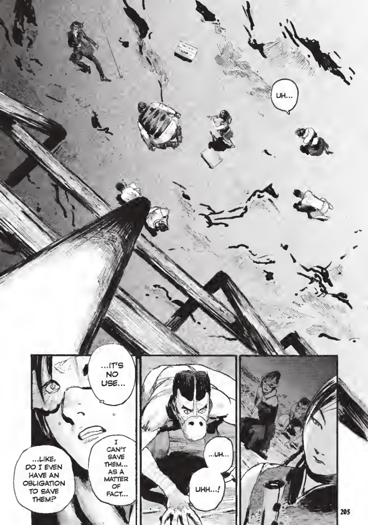

WAIT... WHAT ?!
HUH... HUH... ?!
WHAT? WHAT? WHAT? DID I..
DID I SAY THE WRONG THING ?!
NO...
OKAY, STOP FOR A MOMENT ...
NO WAY!
NOT FROM THAT SHORT OF A...
...OR WAS IT YOU ?!

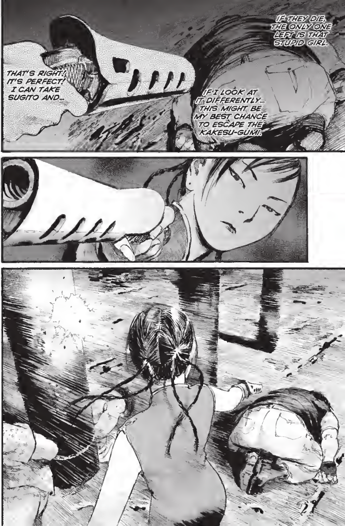

ドカ!
WHAK!
YIPE!
BWUNK!

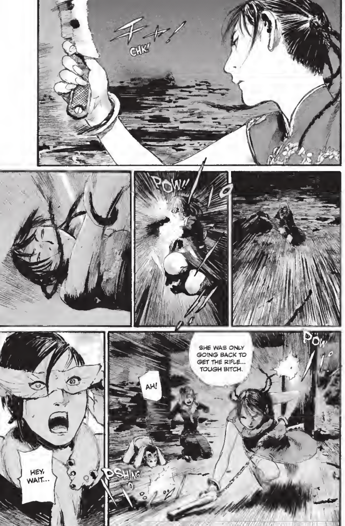

ギキュウゥゥウサ
KSHUUuuu
I...
I'M GONNA DIE!!
DI...
O...
KA K.
AH..
BLIT!
ブッ

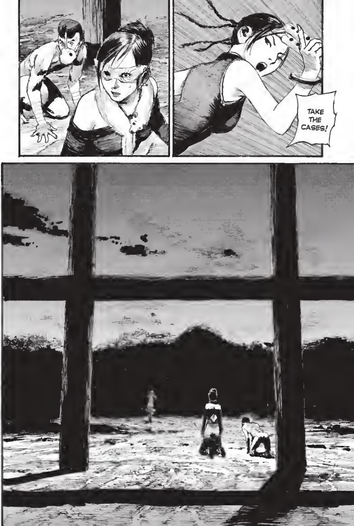

GHF...
HAK!
HAK!
...
DUI BU QI.
I GUESS YOU REALLY *ARE* FROM THIS ISLAND.
...HUH?

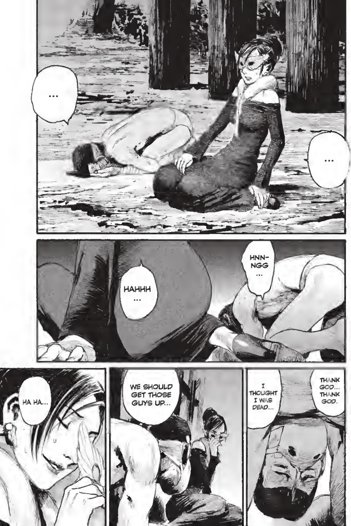

FINE... YOU CAN HANDLE THE CASES.
IF IT'S TOO HARD TO MEET UP WITH THE SOTEN-KAI...
...WHY NOT JUST TAKE THEM BACK INTO TOWN?
I HAVE SOME THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF.
THE ONE-EYED WOMAN.
AND...
...THOSE TWO.

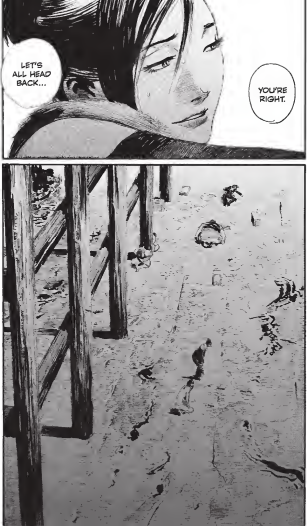

UH...
...UH...
UHH...!
...IT'S NO USE...
I CAN'T SAVE THEM... AS A MATTER OF FACT...
...LIKE, DO I EVEN HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO SAVE THEM?

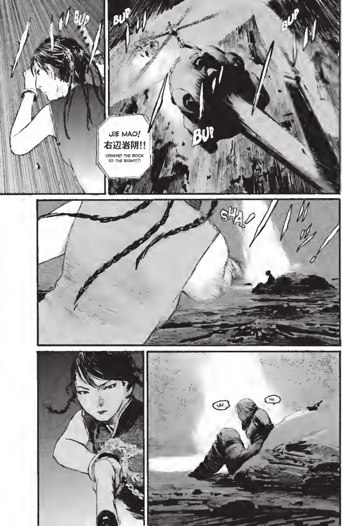

IF THEY DIE, THE ONLY ONE LEFT IS THAT STUPID GIRL.
IF I LOOK AT IT DIFFERENTLY... THIS MIGHT BE MY BEST CHANCE TO ESCAPE THE KAKESU-GUMI.
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S PERFECT! I CAN TAKE SUGITO AND...

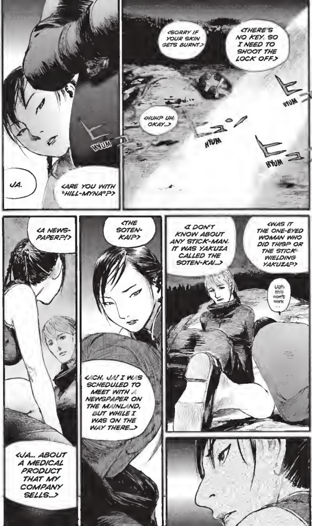

チャ!
CHK!
POW!!
POW
SHE WAS ONLY GOING BACK TO GET THE RIFLE... TOUGH BITCH.
AH!
PSHING
HEY, WAIT...

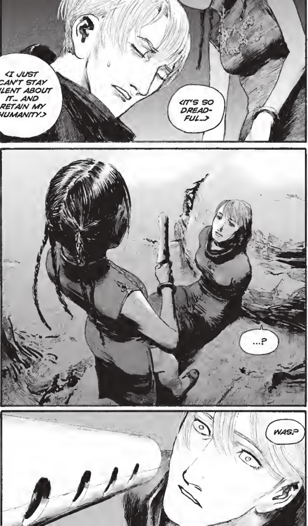

TAKE THE CASES!

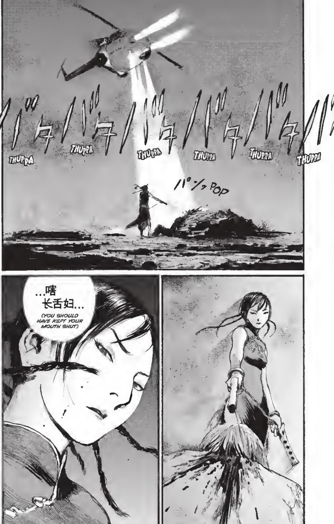

...
...
HNN-NGG...
HAHHH...
THANK GOD... THANK GOD.
I THOUGHT I WAS DEAD...
WE SHOULD GET THOSE GUYS UP...
HA HA...

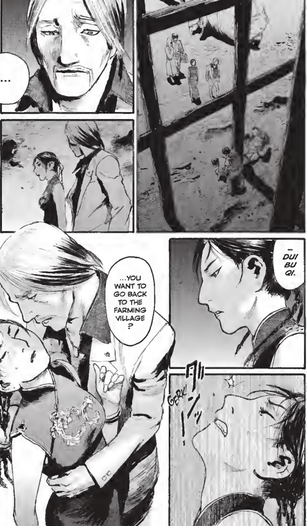

YOU'RE RIGHT.
LET'S ALL HEAD BACK...

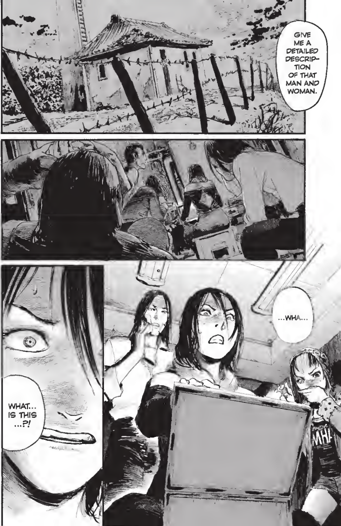

BUP
BUP
BUP
JIE MAO! 右辺岩陰!! (BEHIND THE ROCK TO THE RIGHT!!)
BUP
SHA!
UM
NN


<THERE'S NO KEY, SO I NEED TO SHOOT THE LOCK OFF.>
<SORRY IF YOUR SKIN GETS BURNT.>
<HUH? UH, OKAY...>
HYUM
HYUM
HYUM
HYUM
<ARE YOU WITH "HILL-MYNA"?>
JA.
<WAS IT THE ONE-EYED WOMAN WHO DID THIS? OR THE STICK-WIELDING YAKUZA?>
<I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANY STICK-MAN. IT WAS YAKUZA CALLED THE SOTEN-KAI...>
Ugh, this won't work
<THE SOTEN-KAI?>
<ACH, JA! I WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH A NEWSPAPER ON THE MAINLAND, BUT WHILE I WAS ON THE WAY THERE...>
<A NEWSPAPER?!>
<JA... ABOUT A MEDICAL PRODUCT THAT MY COMPANY SELLS...>


<IT'S SO DREADFUL...>
<I JUST CAN'T STAY SILENT ABOUT IT... AND RETAIN MY HUMANITY.>
...?
WAS?


バタバタバタバタバタバタ
THUPPA THUPPA THUPPA THUPPA THUPPA THUPPA
パッ POP
…啨
长舌妇…
(YOU SHOULD HAVE KEPT YOUR MOUTH SHUT)


...
... DUI BU QI.
...YOU WANT TO GO BACK TO THE FARMING VILLAGE ?
GERK!


GIVE ME A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THAT MAN AND WOMAN.
...WHA...
WHAT... IS THIS ...?!

#7 - **Blut** (END)

Die Wergelder

1

Das Ende

To be continued in Volume 2

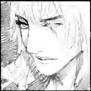
DIE WERGELDER

2

Hiroaki Samura

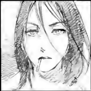
The story thus far...

In Hwamei, a pleasute district in China, a prostitute kills a customer and flees. Meanwhile, in Japan, a bottom-level yakuza in the Kakesu-gumi named Sugito steals some of the syndicate's money and plots to elope with a "bad bitch" drifter named Shinobu, but the escape is quickly foiled. Azuma, a Kakesu-gumi lieutenant, offers Shinobu her life if she helps them steal the "product" of an illicit deal in her hometown, the island of Ishikunagijima. Reluctantly, Shinobu visits the island with Soli, Iwasuga and Haiyan, only to witness one of the business partners get shot in the middle of the deal. The shooter was none other than Trane, the killer prostitute who escaped from Hwamei. The business partners fight back as the kung-fu assassin Jie Mao arrives via helicopter to back them up. The battle between Trane and Jie Mao draws Iwasuga and Haiyan into its midst. With a little luck and some quick thinking, Shinobu manages to make off with the "product" for the rest of the team!!



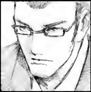
NAMI SAVRASOVA

A one-eyed sniper with a prosthetic hand. Real name, Trane.



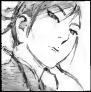
SHINOBU AZA

A bad bitch without a home or job. Hails from Ishikunagijima.



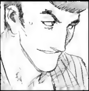
AZUMA

Next leader of the Kakesu-gumi, a tertiary arm of the wide-ranging Taiho-kai syndicate.



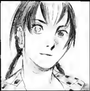
JIE MAO

A kung-fu-wielding contract killer working for the Hill-Myna Corporation.



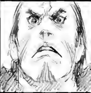
RO SUGITO

A low-level thug in the Kakesu-gumi.



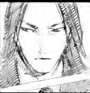
SOLI KIL

The Kakesu-gumi's torturer.



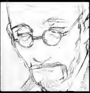
IWASUGA

A guest of the Kakesu-gumi. A mighty, chivalrous warrior.



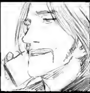
HAIYAN

A guest of the Kakesu-gumi. Wields a staff.



THE PRESIDENT

President of Hill-Myna, an international corporation that develops, manufactures and sells pharmaceuticals.



KURAHIKO SHINDO

Leader of the Soten-kai, under the wing of the Kansai Jihishin-kai. Real name, Torahiko Kudo.

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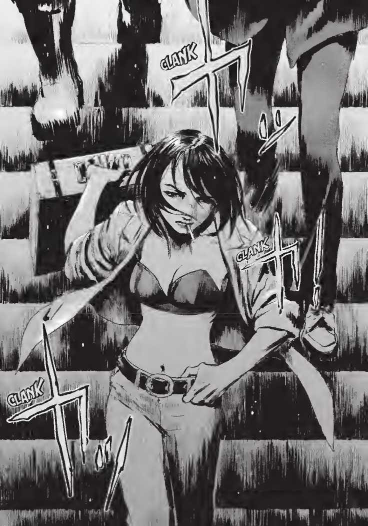
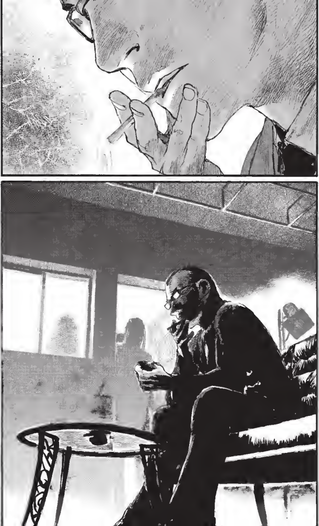
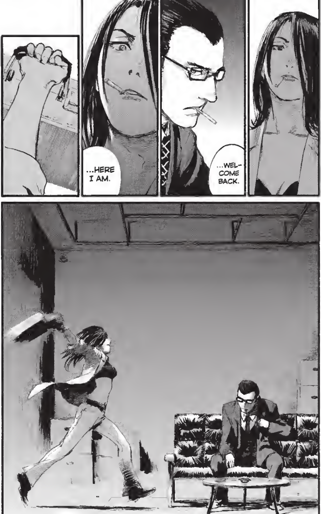
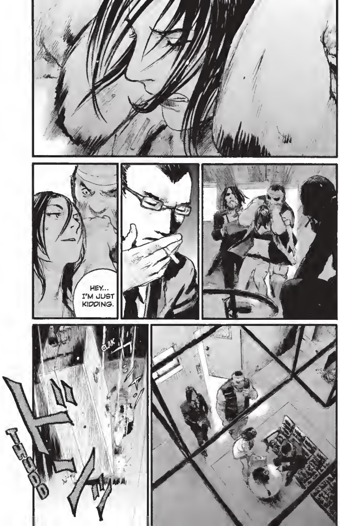
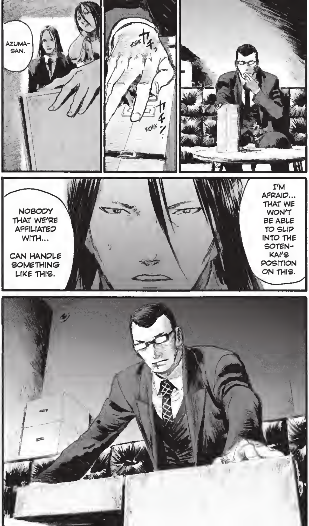
#8 - **Hikutsu** (Secret Cave)

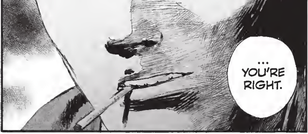

CLANK
CLANK
CLANK

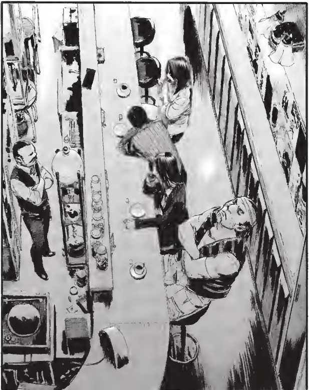


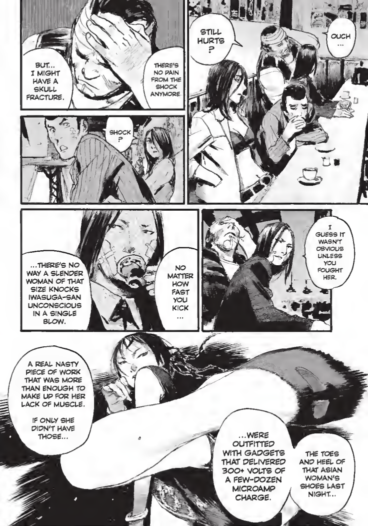

...WELCOME BACK.
...HERE I AM.

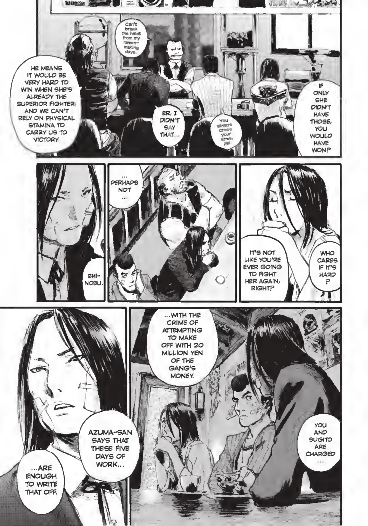

HEY... I'M JUST KIDDING.
CLAK
THUDD

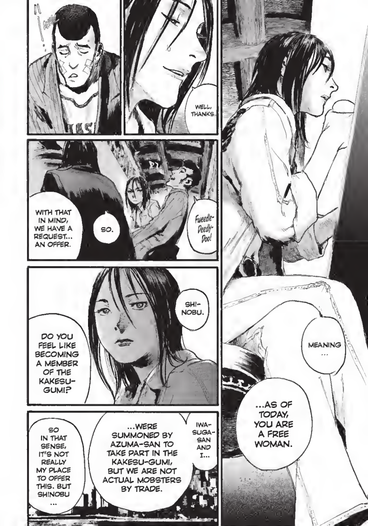

カチッ
KCHIK
カチン
KCHIK
AZUMA-SAN.
I'M AFRAID... THAT WE WON'T BE ABLE TO SLIP INTO THE SOTEN-KAI'S POSITION ON THIS.
NOBODY THAT WE'RE AFFILIATED WITH...
CAN HANDLE SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

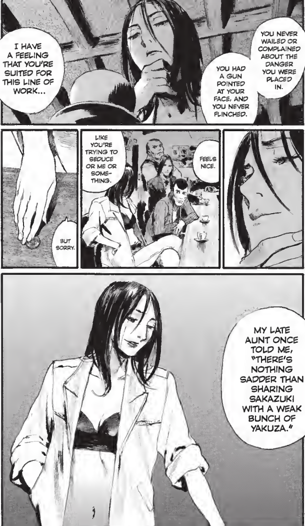

... YOU'RE RIGHT.

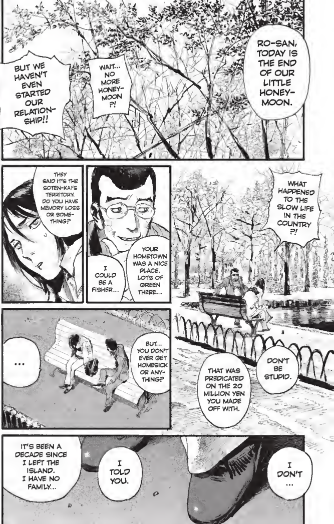


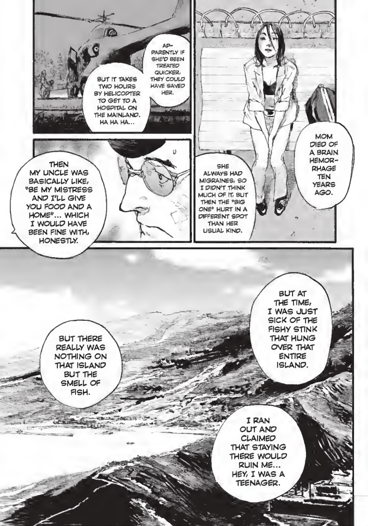

STILL HURTS ?
OUCH ...
THERE'S NO PAIN FROM THE SHOCK ANYMORE
BUT... I MIGHT HAVE A SKULL FRACTURE.
SHOCK ?
I GUESS IT WASN'T OBVIOUS UNLESS YOU FOUGHT HER.
NO MATTER HOW FAST YOU KICK ...
...THERE'S NO WAY A SLENDER WOMAN OF THAT SIZE KNOCKS IWASUGA-SAN UNCONSCIOUS IN A SINGLE BLOW.
THE TOES AND HEEL OF THAT ASIAN WOMAN'S SHOES LAST NIGHT...
...WERE OUTFITTED WITH GADGETS THAT DELIVERED 300+ VOLTS OF A FEW-DOZEN MICROAMP CHARGE.
A REAL NASTY PIECE OF WORK THAT WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH TO MAKE UP FOR HER LACK OF MUSCLE.
IF ONLY SHE DIDN'T HAVE THOSE...

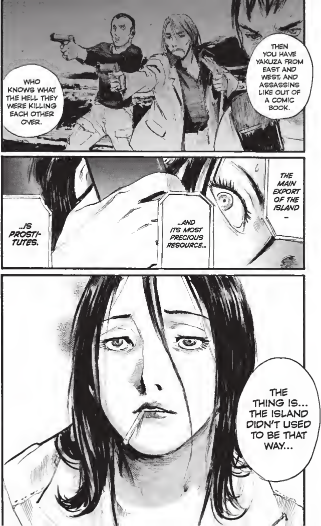

IF ONLY SHE DIDN'T HAVE THOSE, YOU WOULD HAVE WON?
ER, I DIDN'T SAY THAT...
HE MEANS IT WOULD BE VERY HARD TO WIN WHEN SHE'S ALREADY THE SUPERIOR FIGHTER AND WE CAN'T RELY ON PHYSICAL STAMINA TO CARRY US TO VICTORY.
You always cross your arms, pal.
Can't break the habit from my ramen-making days.
WHO CARES IF IT'S HARD?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE EVER GOING TO FIGHT HER AGAIN, RIGHT?
...PERHAPS NOT...
SHI-NOBU.
YOU AND SUGITO ARE CHARGED...
...WITH THE CRIME OF ATTEMPTING TO MAKE OFF WITH 20 MILLION YEN OF THE GANG'S MONEY.
AZUMA-SAN SAYS THAT THESE FIVE DAYS OF WORK...
...ARE ENOUGH TO WRITE THAT OFF.

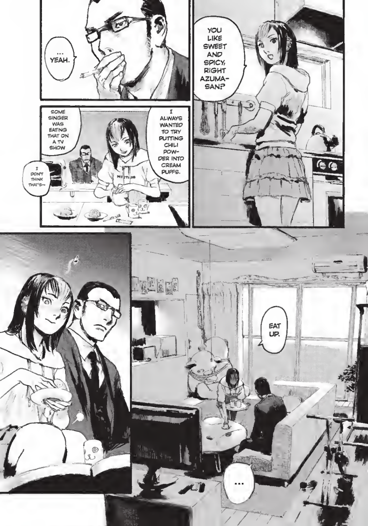

MEANING ...
...AS OF TODAY, YOU ARE A FREE WOMAN.
WELL, THANKS
WITH THAT IN MIND, WE HAVE A REQUEST... AN OFFER.
SO.
Fweedle-Deedly-Doo!
SHI-NOBU.
DO YOU FEEL LIKE BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE KAKESU-GUMI?
IWA-SUGA-SAN AND I...
...WERE SUMMONED BY AZUMA-SAN TO TAKE PART IN THE KAKESU-GUMI, BUT WE ARE NOT ACTUAL MOBSTERS BY TRADE.
SO IN THAT SENSE, IT'S NOT REALLY MY PLACE TO OFFER THIS. BUT SHINOBU ...

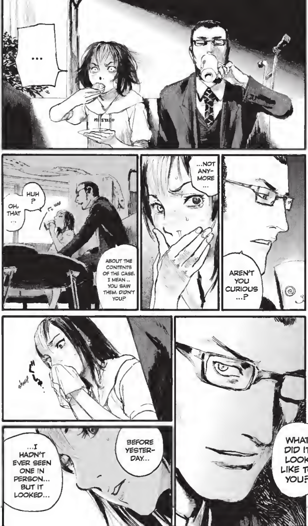

YOU NEVER WAILED OR COMPLAINED ABOUT THE DANGER YOU WERE PLACED IN.
YOU HAD A GUN POINTED AT YOUR FACE, AND YOU NEVER FLINCHED.
I HAVE A FEELING THAT YOU'RE SUITED FOR THIS LINE OF WORK...
FEELS NICE.
LIKE YOU'RE TRYING TO SEDUCE OR ME OR SOME-THING.
BUT SORRY.
MY LATE AUNT ONCE TOLD ME, "THERE'S NOTHING SADDER THAN SHARING SAKAZUKI WITH A WEAK BUNCH OF YAKUZA."

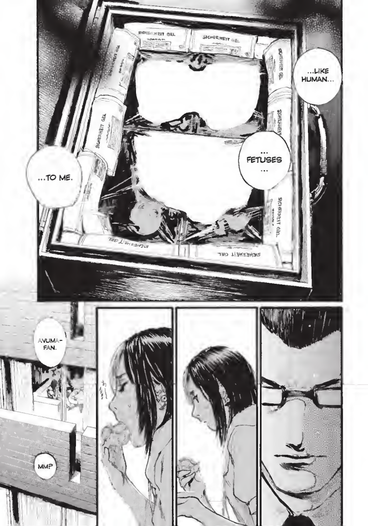

RO-SAN, TODAY IS THE END OF OUR LITTLE HONEYMOON.
WAIT... NO MORE HONEYMOON?!
BUT WE HAVEN'T EVEN STARTED OUR RELATIONSHIP!!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SLOW LIFE IN THE COUNTRY?!
DON'T BE STUPID.
THAT WAS PREDICATED ON THE 20 MILLION YEN YOU MADE OFF WITH.
YOUR HOMETOWN WAS A NICE PLACE. LOTS OF GREEN THERE...
I COULD BE A FISHER...
THEY SAID IT'S THE SOTEN-KAI'S TERRITORY. DO YOU HAVE MEMORY LOSS OR SOMETHING?
BUT... YOU DON'T EVER GET HOMESICK OR ANYTHING?
...
I DON'T...
I TOLD YOU.
IT'S BEEN A DECADE SINCE I LEFT THE ISLAND. I HAVE NO FAMILY...

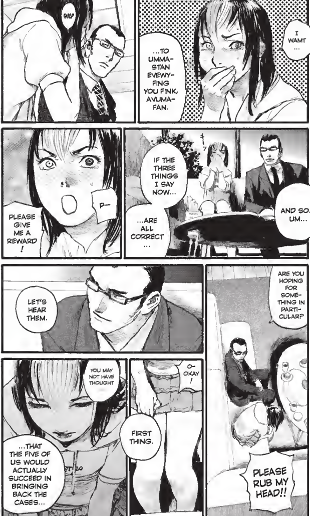

MOM DIED OF A BRAIN HEMORRHAGE TEN YEARS AGO.
SHE ALWAYS HAD MIGRAINES, SO I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF IT, BUT THEN THE "BIG ONE" HURT IN A DIFFERENT SPOT THAN HER USUAL KIND.
APPARENTLY IF SHE'D BEEN TREATED QUICKER, THEY COULD HAVE SAVED HER.
BUT IT TAKES TWO HOURS BY HELICOPTER TO GET TO A HOSPITAL ON THE MAINLAND. HA HA HA...
THEN MY UNCLE WAS BASICALLY LIKE, "BE MY MISTRESS AND I'LL GIVE YOU FOOD AND A HOME"... WHICH I WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE WITH, HONESTLY.
BUT AT THE TIME, I WAS JUST SICK OF THE FISHY STINK THAT HUNG OVER THAT ENTIRE ISLAND.
BUT THERE REALLY WAS NOTHING ON THAT ISLAND BUT THE SMELL OF FISH.
I RAN OUT AND CLAIMED THAT STAYING THERE WOULD RUIN ME... HEY, I WAS A TEENAGER.

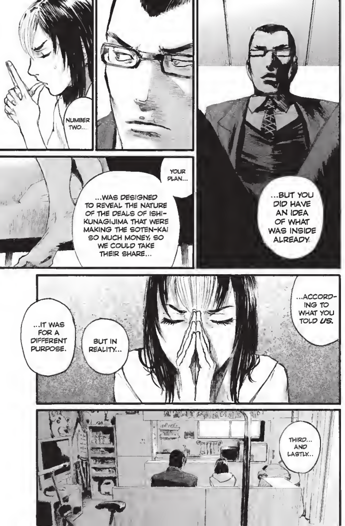

THEN YOU HAVE YAKUZA FROM EAST AND WEST, AND ASSASSINS LIKE OUT OF A COMIC BOOK.
WHO KNOWS WHAT THE HELL THEY WERE KILLING EACH OTHER OVER.
THE MAIN EXPORT OF THE ISLAND ...
...AND ITS MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE...
...IS PROSTITUTES.
THE THING IS... THE ISLAND DIDN'T USED TO BE THAT WAY...

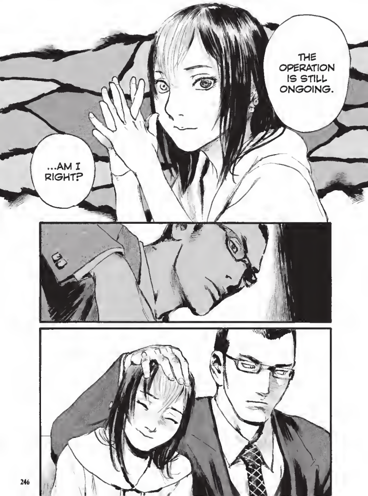

YOU LIKE SWEET AND SPICY, RIGHT AZUMA-SAN?
... YEAH.
I ALWAYS WANTED TO TRY PUTTING CHILI POWDER INTO CREAM PUFFS.
SOME SINGER WAS EATING THAT ON A TV SHOW
I DON'T THINK THAT'S~
EAT UP.
...

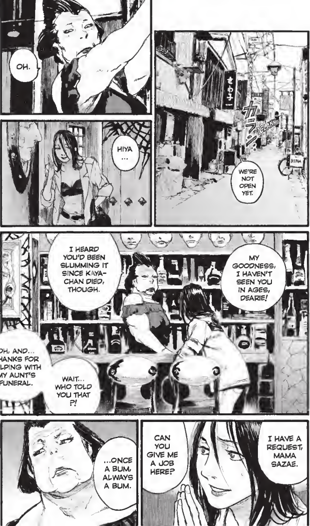

...
HUH?
OH, THAT...
ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF THE CASE, I MEAN... YOU SAW THEM, DIDN'T YOU?
...NOT ANYMORE...
AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ...?
shnuf
WHAT DID IT LOOK LIKE TO YOU?
...I HADN'T EVER SEEN ONE IN PERSON...
BEFORE YESTERDAY...
BUT IT LOOKED...

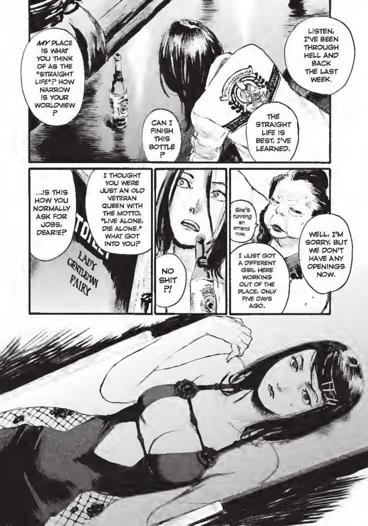

SICHERHEIT GEL
...LIKE HUMAN...
... FETUSES ...
...TO ME.
AVUMA-FAN.
MM?

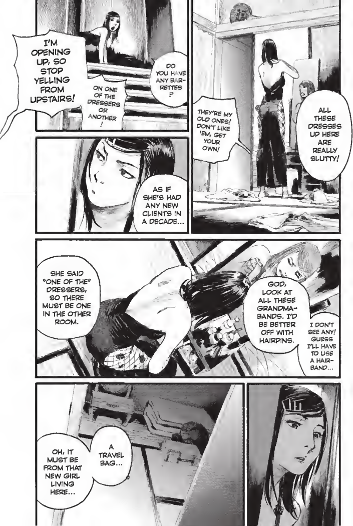

I WAMT ...
...TO UMMASTAN EVEWYFING YOU FINK, AVUMA-FAN.
GULP
AND SO... UM...
IF THE THREE THINGS I SAY NOW...
...ARE ALL CORRECT ...
P—
PLEASE GIVE ME A REWARD!
ARE YOU HOPING FOR SOMETHING IN PARTICULAR?
PLEASE RUB MY HEAD!!
LET'S HEAR THEM.
O-OKAY!
FIRST THING.
YOU MAY NOT HAVE THOUGHT
...THAT THE FIVE OF US WOULD ACTUALLY SUCCEED IN BRINGING BACK THE CASES...

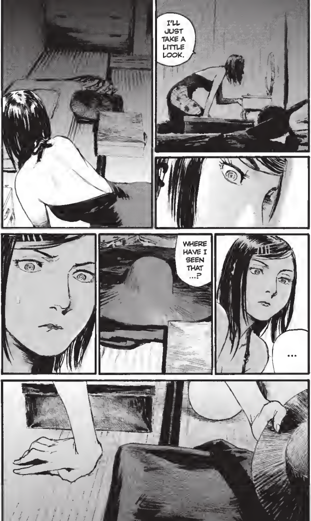

...BUT YOU DID HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT WAS INSIDE ALREADY.
NUMBER TWO...
YOUR PLAN...
...WAS DESIGNED TO REVEAL THE NATURE OF THE DEALS OF ISHI-KUNAGIJIMA THAT WERE MAKING THE SOTEN-KAI SO MUCH MONEY, SO WE COULD TAKE THEIR SHARE...
...ACCORDING TO WHAT YOU TOLD *US*.
BUT IN REALITY...
...IT WAS FOR A DIFFERENT PURPOSE.
THIRD... AND LASTLY...

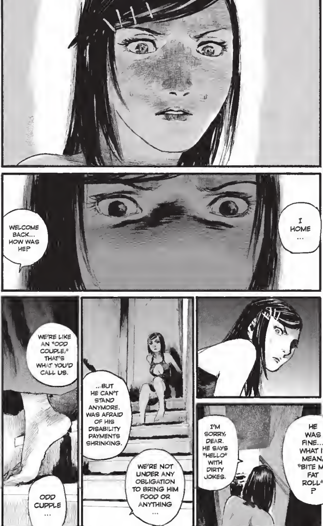

THE OPERATION IS STILL ONGOING.
...AM I RIGHT?

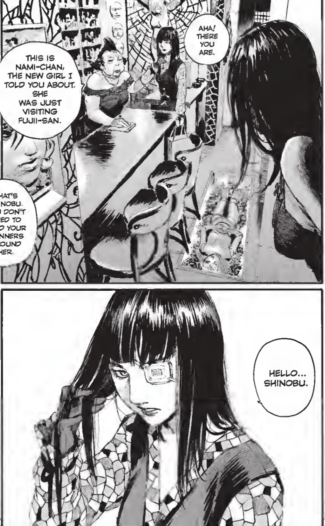

せゆ子
カラン
CLANK
RINA
WE'RE NOT OPEN YET.
OH.
HIYA...
MY GOODNESS, I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN AGES, DEARIE!
I HEARD YOU'D BEEN SLUMMING IT SINCE KAYA-CHAN DIED, THOUGH.
WAIT... WHO TOLD YOU THAT ?!
OH, AND... THANKS FOR HELPING WITH MY AUNT'S FUNERAL.
I HAVE A REQUEST, MAMA SAZAE.
CAN YOU GIVE ME A JOB HERE?
...ONCE A BUM, ALWAYS A BUM.

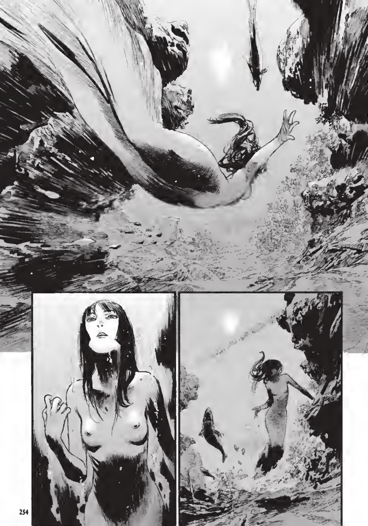

LISTEN, I'VE BEEN THROUGH HELL AND BACK THE LAST WEEK.
THE STRAIGHT LIFE IS BEST, I'VE LEARNED.
CAN I FINISH THIS BOTTLE?
MY PLACE IS WHAT YOU THINK OF AS THE "STRAIGHT LIFE"? HOW NARROW IS YOUR WORLDVIEW?
WELL, I'M SORRY, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY OPENINGS NOW.
She's running an errand now.
I JUST GOT A DIFFERENT GIRL HERE WORKING OUT OF THE PLACE, ONLY FIVE DAYS AGO.
NO SHIT?!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST AN OLD VETERAN QUEEN WITH THE MOTTO, "LIVE ALONE, DIE ALONE." WHAT GOT INTO YOU?
...IS THIS HOW YOU NORMALLY ASK FOR JOBS, DEARIE?
TOILET
LADY
GENTLEMAN
FAIRY

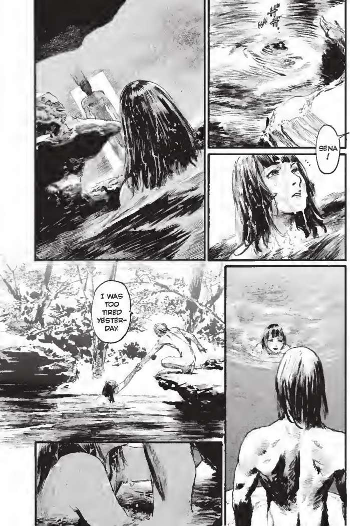

ALL THESE DRESSES UP HERE ARE REALLY SLUTTY!
THEY'RE MY OLD ONES! DON'T LIKE 'EM, GET YOUR OWN!
DO YOU HAVE ANY BARRETTES?
ON ONE OF THE DRESSERS OR ANOTHER!
I'M OPENING UP, SO STOP YELLING FROM UPSTAIRS!
AS IF SHE'S HAD ANY NEW CLIENTS IN A DECADE...
I DON'T SEE ANY! GUESS I'LL HAVE TO USE A HAIRBAND...
GOD, LOOK AT ALL THESE GRANDMA-BANDS. I'D BE BETTER OFF WITH HAIRPINS.
SHE SAID "ONE OF THE" DRESSERS, SO THERE MUST BE ONE IN THE OTHER ROOM.
A TRAVEL BAG...
OH, IT MUST BE FROM THAT NEW GIRL LIVING HERE...

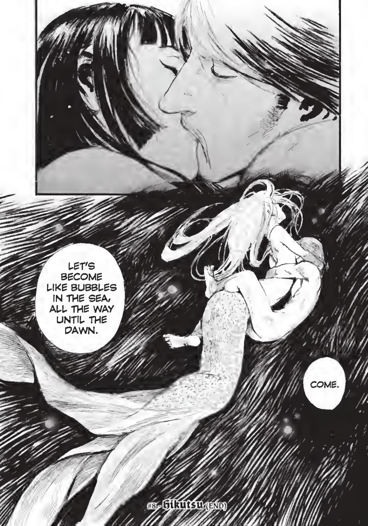

I'LL JUST TAKE A LITTLE LOOK.
WHERE HAVE I SEEN THAT ...?
...


I HOME ...
WELCOME BACK... HOW WAS HE?
HE WAS FINE... WHAT IT MEAN, "BITE MY FAT ROLL" ?
I'M SORRY, DEAR. HE SAYS "HELLO" WITH DIRTY JOKES.
...BUT HE CAN'T STAND ANYMORE. WAS AFRAID OF HIS DISABILITY PAYMENTS SHRINKING.
WE'RE NOT UNDER ANY OBLIGATION TO BRING HIM FOOD OR ANYTHING ...
WE'RE LIKE AN "ODD COUPLE," THAT'S WHAT YOU'D CALL US.
ODD CUPPLE ...

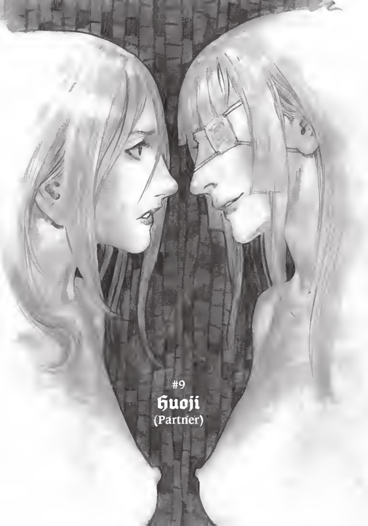

AHA! THERE YOU ARE.
THIS IS NAMI-CHAN, THE NEW GIRL I TOLD YOU ABOUT. SHE WAS JUST VISITING FUJII-SAN.
THAT'S SHINOBU. YOU DON'T NEED TO MIND YOUR MANNERS AROUND HER.
HELLO... SHINOBU.




FSHH
SENA!
I WAS TOO TIRED YESTERDAY.


LET'S BECOME LIKE BUBBLES IN THE SEA, ALL THE WAY UNTIL THE DAWN.
COME.

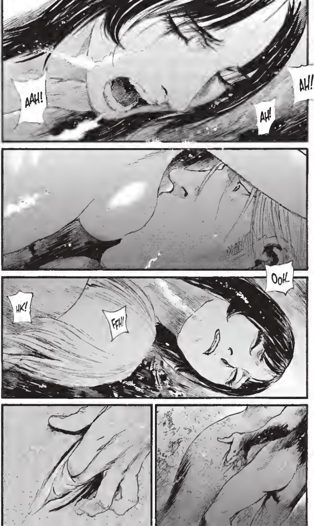
#8 Hikutsu (END)

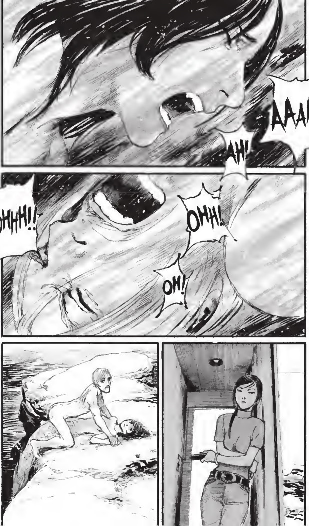


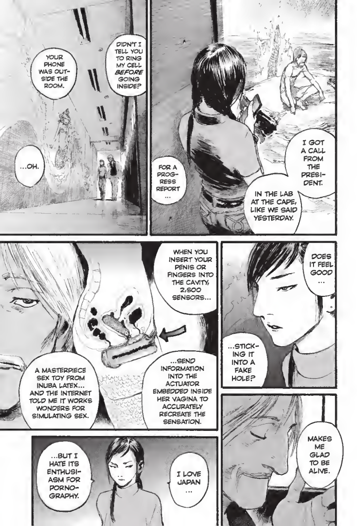
#9

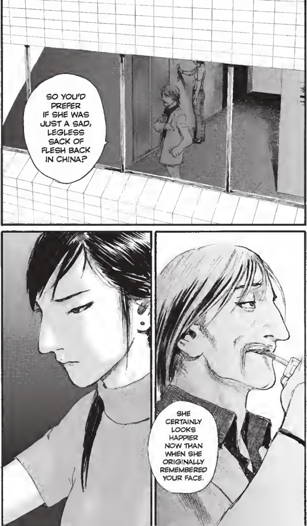
Huoji

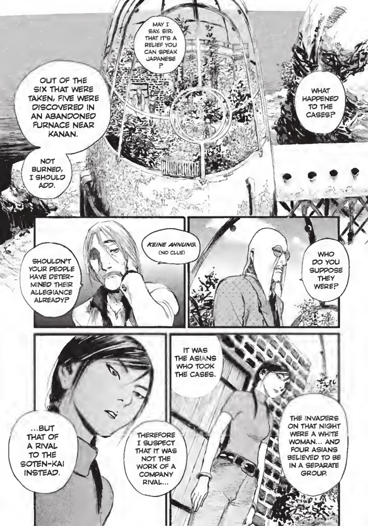
(Partner)

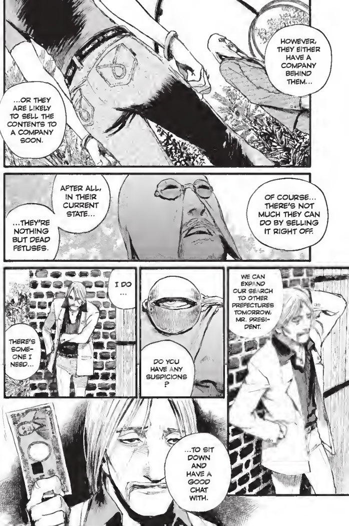

AH!
AH!
AAH!
OOH..
FFH!
HK!

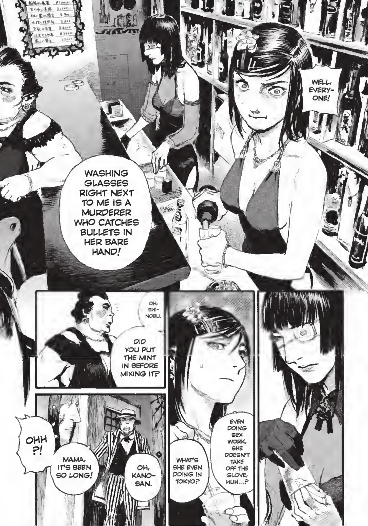

AAAIH!
AH!
OHH!
OH!
OHHH!!

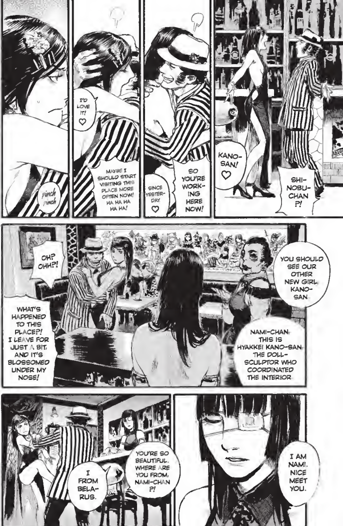

I GOT A CALL FROM THE PRESIDENT.
IN THE LAB AT THE CAPE, LIKE WE SAID YESTERDAY.
FOR A PROGRESS REPORT ...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO RING MY CELL *BEFORE* GOING INSIDE?
YOUR PHONE WAS OUTSIDE THE ROOM.
...OH.
DOES IT FEEL GOOD ...
...STICKING IT INTO A FAKE HOLE?
WHEN YOU INSERT YOUR PENIS OR FINGERS INTO THE CAVITY, 2,500 SENSORS...
...SEND INFORMATION INTO THE ACTUATOR EMBEDDED INSIDE HER VAGINA TO ACCURATELY RECREATE THE SENSATION.
A MASTERPIECE SEX TOY FROM INUBA LATEX... AND THE INTERNET TOLD ME IT WORKS WONDERS FOR SIMULATING SEX.
MAKES ME GLAD TO BE ALIVE.
I LOVE JAPAN ...
...BUT I HATE ITS ENTHUSIASM FOR PORNOGRAPHY.

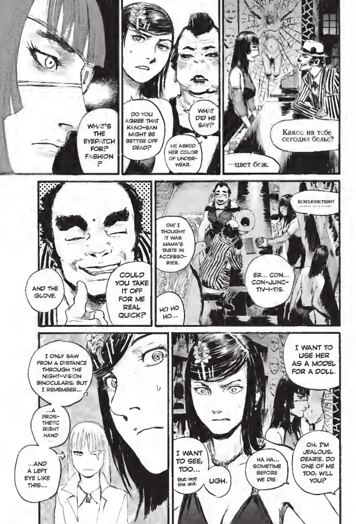

SO YOU'D PREFER IF SHE WAS JUST A SAD, LEGLESS SACK OF FLESH BACK IN CHINA?
SHE CERTAINLY LOOKS HAPPIER NOW THAN WHEN SHE ORIGINALLY REMEMBERED YOUR FACE.

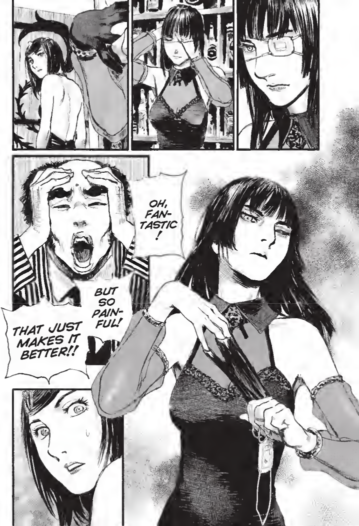

MAY I SAY, SIR, THAT IT'S A RELIEF YOU CAN SPEAK JAPANESE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CASES?
OUT OF THE SIX THAT WERE TAKEN, FIVE WERE DISCOVERED IN AN ABANDONED FURNACE NEAR KANAN.
NOT BURNED, I SHOULD ADD.
WHO DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY WERE?
KEINE AHNUNG. (NO CLUE)
SHOULDN'T YOUR PEOPLE HAVE DETERMINED THEIR ALLEGIANCE ALREADY?
THE INVADERS ON THAT NIGHT WERE A WHITE WOMAN... AND FOUR ASIANS BELIEVED TO BE IN A SEPARATE GROUP.
IT WAS THE ASIANS WHO TOOK THE CASES.
THEREFORE I SUSPECT THAT IT WAS NOT THE WORK OF A COMPANY RIVAL...
...BUT THAT OF A RIVAL TO THE SOTEN-KAI INSTEAD.

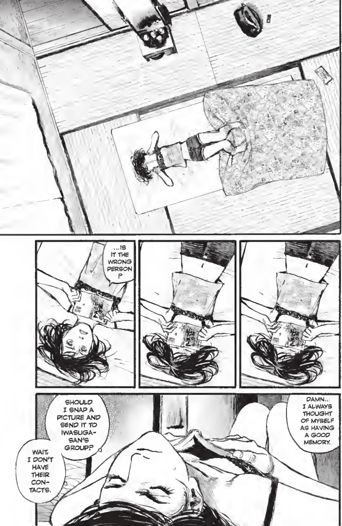

HOWEVER, THEY EITHER HAVE A COMPANY BEHIND THEM...
...OR THEY ARE LIKELY TO SELL THE CONTENTS TO A COMPANY SOON.
OF COURSE... THERE'S NOT MUCH THEY CAN DO BY SELLING IT RIGHT OFF.
AFTER ALL, IN THEIR CURRENT STATE...
...THEY'RE NOTHING BUT DEAD FETUSES.
WE CAN EXPAND OUR SEARCH TO OTHER PREFECTURES TOMORROW, MR. PRESIDENT.
DO YOU HAVE ANY SUSPICIONS?
I DO...
THERE'S SOMEONE I NEED...
...TO SIT DOWN AND HAVE A GOOD CHAT WITH.

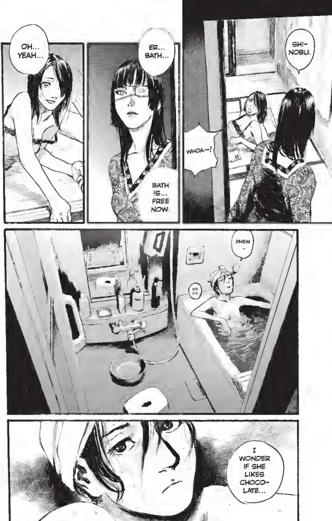

WELL, EVERYONE!
WASHING GLASSES RIGHT NEXT TO ME IS A MURDERER WHO CATCHES BULLETS IN HER BARE HAND!
EVEN DOING SEX WORK, SHE DOESN'T TAKE OFF THE GLOVE, HUH...?
WHAT'S SHE EVEN DOING IN TOKYO?
OH, SHINOBU.
DID YOU PUT THE MINT IN BEFORE MIXING IT?
OH, KANO-SAN.
MAMA, IT'S BEEN SO LONG!
OHH ?!

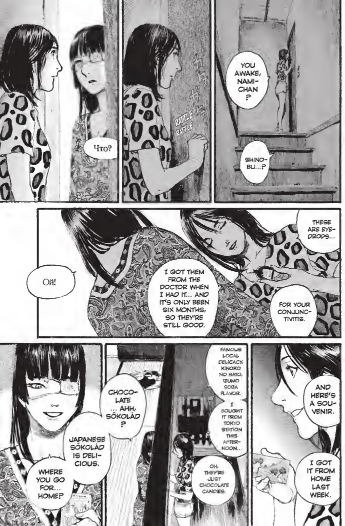

SHI-NOBU-CHAN ?!
KANO-SAN! ♡
SO YOU'RE WORKING HERE NOW!
SINCE YESTERDAY. ♡
MAYBE I SHOULD START VISITING THIS PLACE MORE OFTEN NOW! HA HA HA HA HA!
I'D LOVE IT! ♡
Pinch Pinch
YOU SHOULD SEE OUR OTHER NEW GIRL, KANO-SAN.
NAMI-CHAN, THIS IS HYAKKEI KANO-SAN, THE DOLL-SCULPTOR WHO COORDINATED THE INTERIOR.
OH? OHH?!
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THIS PLACE?! I LEAVE FOR JUST A BIT, AND IT'S BLOSSOMED UNDER MY NOSE!
I AM NAMI. NICE MEET YOU.
YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL. WHERE ARE YOU FROM, NAMI-CHAN ?!
I FROM BELARUS.

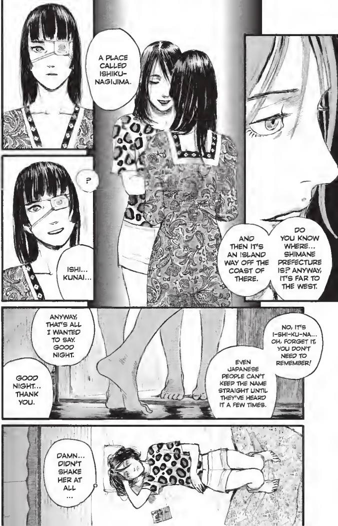

Какое на тебе сегодня белье?
…цвет беж.
WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE ASKED HER COLOR OF UNDERWEAR.
DO YOU AGREE THAT KANO-SAN MIGHT BE BETTER OFF DEAD?
WHAT'S THE EYEPATCH FOR? FASHION?
КОНЪЮНКТИВИТ
ER... CON... CON-JUNC-TIV-I-TIS.
OH! I THOUGHT IT WAS MAMA'S TASTE IN ACCESSORIES.
HO HO HO...
COULD YOU TAKE IT OFF FOR ME REAL QUICK?
AND THE GLOVE.
I WANT TO USE HER AS A MODEL FOR A DOLL.
OH, I'M JEALOUS, DEARIE. DO ONE OF ME TOO, WILL YOU?
HA HA... SOMETIME BEFORE WE DIE
UGH.
I WANT TO SEE, TOO...
But not the doll.
I ONLY SAW FROM A DISTANCE THROUGH THE NIGHT-VISION BINOCULARS, BUT I REMEMBER...
...A PROSTHETIC RIGHT HAND
...AND A LEFT EYE LIKE THIS...

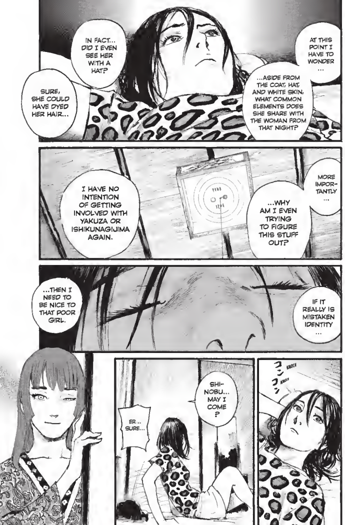

OH, FANTASTIC!
BUT SO PAINFUL!
THAT JUST MAKES IT BETTER!!

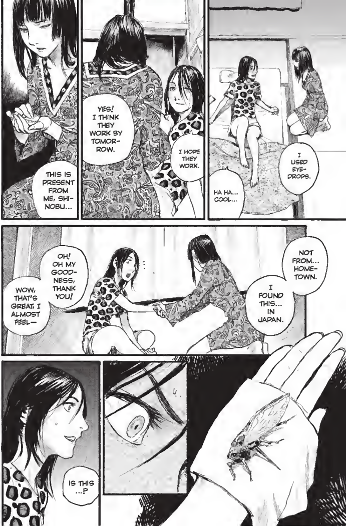

...IS IT THE WRONG PERSON?
DAMN.. I ALWAYS THOUGHT OF MYSELF AS HAVING A GOOD MEMORY.
SHOULD I SNAP A PICTURE AND SEND IT TO IWASUGA-SAN'S GROUP?
WAIT, I DON'T HAVE THEIR CONTACTS.

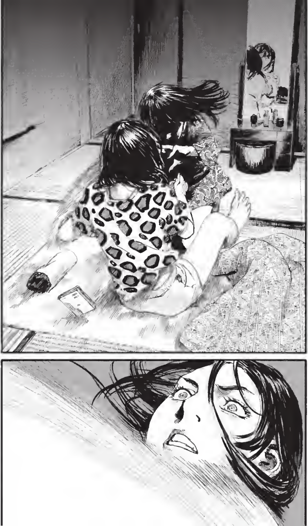

SHI-NOBU.
WHOA--!
ER... BATH...
BATH IS... FREE NOW
OH... YEAH...
PHEW ..
I WONDER IF SHE LIKES CHOCOLATE...

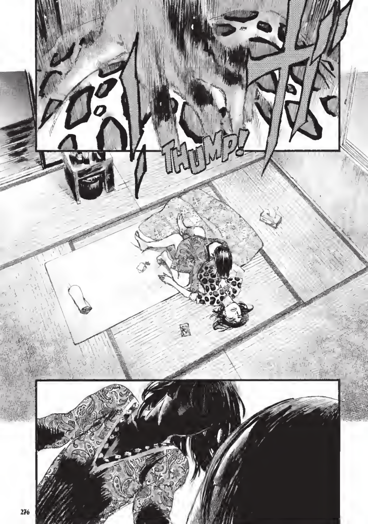

YOU AWAKE, NAMI-CHAN?
SHINO-BU...?
RATTLE RATTLE
Что?
THESE ARE EYE-DROPS...
FOR YOUR CONJUNCTIVITIS.
I GOT THEM FROM THE DOCTOR WHEN I HAD IT... AND IT'S ONLY BEEN SIX MONTHS, SO THEY'RE STILL GOOD.
Ой!
AND HERE'S A SOUVENIR.
I GOT IT FROM HOME LAST WEEK.
FAMOUS LOCAL DELICACY, KINOKO NO SATO, IZUMO SOBA FLAVOR.
I BOUGHT IT FROM TOKYO STATION THIS AFTERNOON...
OH, THEY'RE JUST CHOCOLATE CANDIES.
CHOCOLATE... AHH, SŌKOLÁD?
JAPANESE SŌKOLÁD IS DELICIOUS.
WHERE YOU GO FOR... HOME?

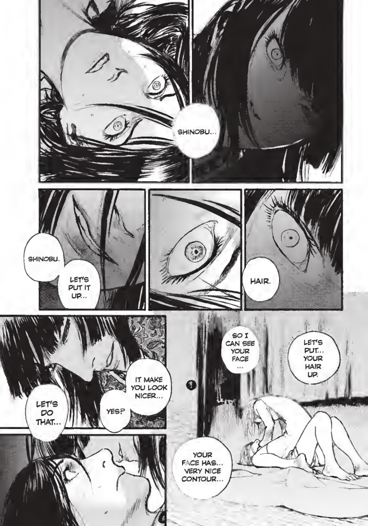

A PLACE CALLED ISHIKU-NAGIJIMA.
?
ISHI... KUNAI...
DO YOU KNOW WHERE... SHIMANE PREFECTURE IS? ANYWAY, IT'S FAR TO THE WEST.
AND THEN IT'S AN ISLAND WAY OFF THE COAST OF THERE.
NO, IT'S I-SHI-KU-NA... OH, FORGET IT, YOU DON'T NEED TO REMEMBER!
EVEN JAPANESE PEOPLE CAN'T KEEP THE NAME STRAIGHT UNTIL THEY'VE HEARD IT A FEW TIMES.
ANYWAY, THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY. GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT... THANK YOU.
DAMN... DIDN'T SHAKE HER AT ALL ...

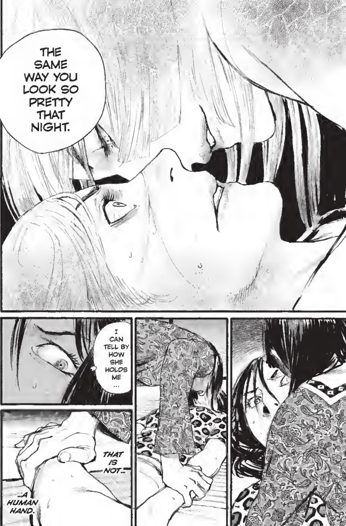

AT THIS POINT I HAVE TO WONDER ...
...ASIDE FROM THE COAT, HAT, AND WHITE SKIN, WHAT COMMON ELEMENTS DOES SHE SHARE WITH THE WOMAN FROM THAT NIGHT?
IN FACT... DID I EVEN SEE HER WITH A HAT?
SURE, SHE COULD HAVE DYED HER HAIR...
MORE IMPORTANTLY ...
...WHY AM I EVEN TRYING TO FIGURE THIS STUFF OUT?
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GETTING INVOLVED WITH YAKUZA OR ISHIKUNAGIJIMA AGAIN.
IF IT REALLY IS MISTAKEN IDENTITY ...
...THEN I NEED TO BE NICE TO THAT POOR GIRL.
コンコン
KNOCK KNOCK
SHI-NOBU... MAY I COME ?
ER.. SURE...

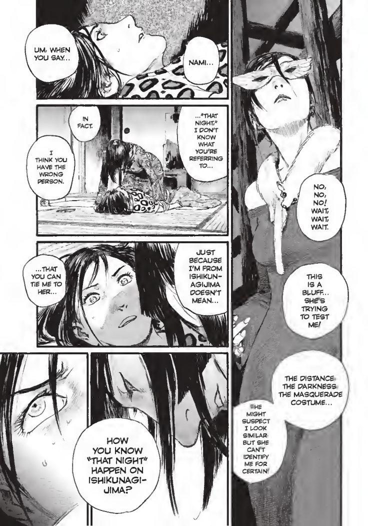

I USED EYE-DROPS.
HA HA... COOL...
I HOPE THEY WORK.
YES! I THINK THEY WORK BY TOMORROW.
THIS IS PRESENT FROM ME, SHINOBU...
NOT FROM... HOMETOWN.
I FOUND THIS... IN JAPAN.
OH! OH MY GOODNESS, THANK YOU!
WOW, THAT'S GREAT, I ALMOST FEEL—
IS THIS ...?

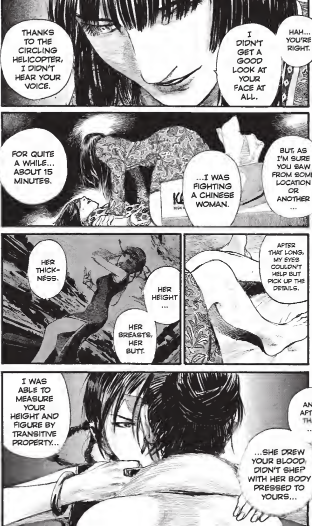


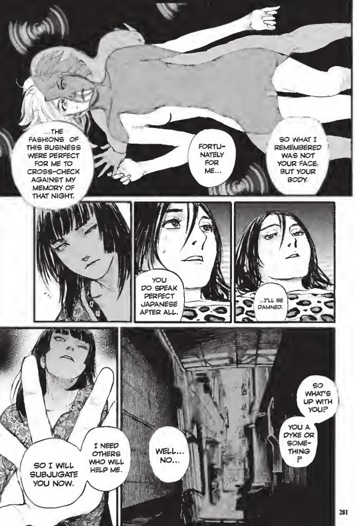

THUMP!

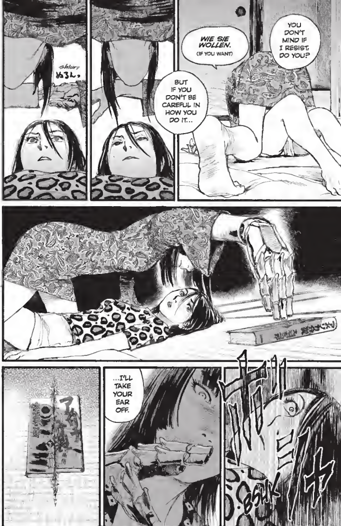

SHINOBU...
SHINOBU.
LET'S PUT IT UP...
HAIR.
LET'S PUT... YOUR HAIR UP.
SO I CAN SEE YOUR FACE ...
YOUR FACE HAS... VERY NICE CONTOUR...
IT MAKE YOU LOOK NICER...
YES?
LET'S DO THAT...

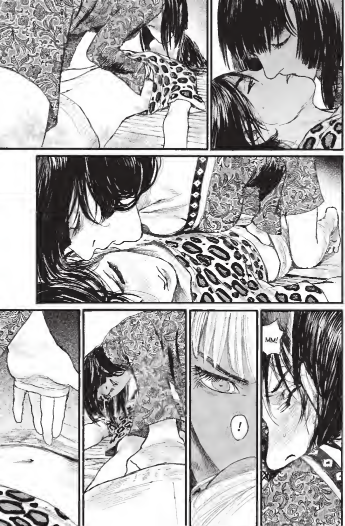

THE SAME WAY YOU LOOK SO PRETTY THAT NIGHT.
I CAN TELL BY HOW SHE HOLDS ME...
THAT IS NOT...
...A HUMAN HAND.

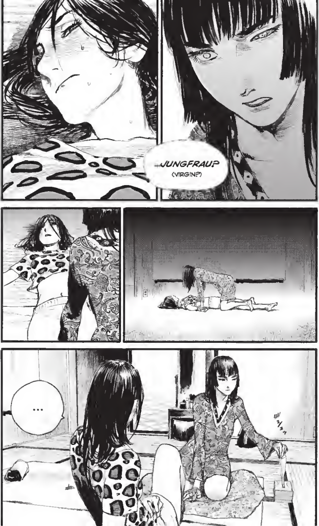

NAMI...
UM, WHEN YOU SAY...
..."THAT NIGHT," I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE REFERRING TO...
IN FACT.
I THINK YOU HAVE THE WRONG PERSON.
NO, NO, NO! WAIT, WAIT, WAIT.
THIS IS A BLUFF... SHE'S TRYING TO TEST ME!
THE DISTANCE THE DARKNESS THE MASQUERADE COSTUME...
SHE MIGHT SUSPECT I LOOK SIMILAR BUT SHE CAN'T IDENTIFY ME FOR CERTAIN!
JUST BECAUSE I'M FROM ISHIKUNAGIJIMA DOESN'T MEAN...
...THAT YOU CAN TIE ME TO HER...
HOW YOU KNOW "THAT NIGHT" HAPPEN ON ISHIKUNAGIJIMA?

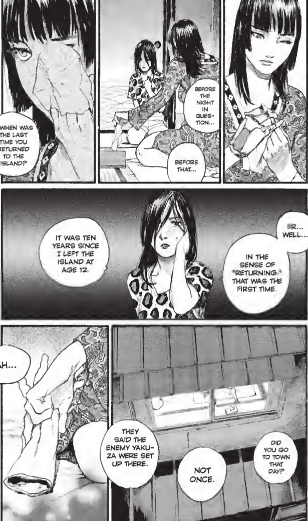

HAH... YOU'RE RIGHT.
I DIDN'T GET A GOOD LOOK AT YOUR FACE AT ALL.
THANKS TO THE CIRCLING HELICOPTER, I DIDN'T HEAR YOUR VOICE.
BUT, AS I'M SURE YOU SAW FROM SOME LOCATION OR ANOTHER ...
...I WAS FIGHTING A CHINESE WOMAN.
FOR QUITE A WHILE... ABOUT 15 MINUTES.
AFTER THAT LONG, MY EYES COULDN'T HELP BUT PICK UP THE DETAILS.
HER HEIGHT ...
HER BREASTS, HER BUTT.
HER THICKNESS.
AND AFTER THAT ...
...SHE DREW YOUR BLOOD DIDN'T SHE? WITH HER BODY PRESSED TO YOURS...
I WAS ABLE TO MEASURE YOUR HEIGHT AND FIGURE BY TRANSITIVE PROPERTY...

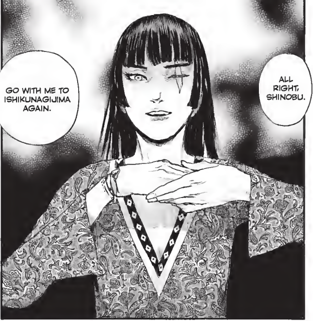

SO WHAT I REMEMBERED WAS NOT YOUR FACE BUT YOUR BODY.
FORTUNATELY FOR ME...
...THE FASHIONS OF THIS BUSINESS WERE PERFECT FOR ME TO CROSS-CHECK AGAINST MY MEMORY OF THAT NIGHT.
..I'LL BE DAMNED.
YOU DO SPEAK PERFECT JAPANESE AFTER ALL.
SO WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
YOU A DYKE OR SOMETHING?
WELL... NO...
I NEED OTHERS WHO WILL HELP ME.
SO I WILL SUBJUGATE YOU NOW.

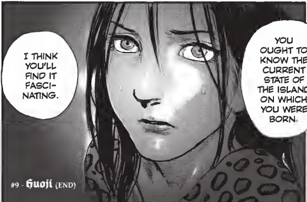

YOU DON'T MIND IF I RESIST, DO YOU?
WIE SIE WOLLEN. (IF YOU WANT)
BUT IF YOU DON'T BE CAREFUL IN HOW YOU DO IT...
shlurp
ぬるんっ
...I'LL TAKE YOUR EAR OFF.
BSHK


MM!
!


...JUNGFRAU?
(VIRGIN?)
...
SHU!

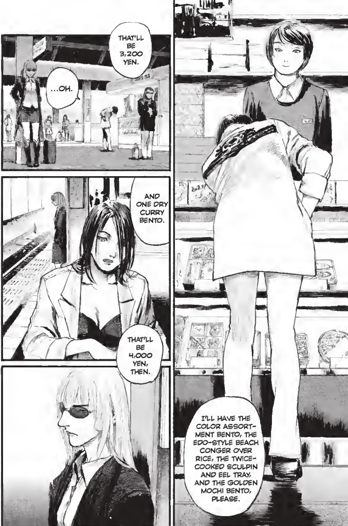

BEFORE THE NIGHT IN QUESTION...
BEFORE THAT...
...WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU RETURNED TO THE ISLAND?
ER... WELL...
IN THE SENSE OF "RETURNING," THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME.
IT WAS TEN YEARS SINCE I LEFT THE ISLAND AT AGE 12.
DID YOU GO TO TOWN THAT DAY?
NOT ONCE.
THEY SAID THE ENEMY YAKUZA WERE SET UP THERE.
AH...

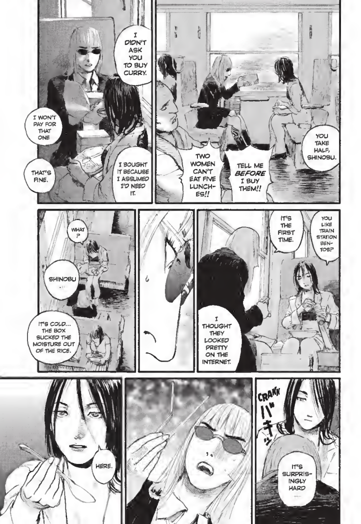

ALL RIGHT, SHINOBU.
GO WITH ME TO ISHIKUNAGIJIMA AGAIN.

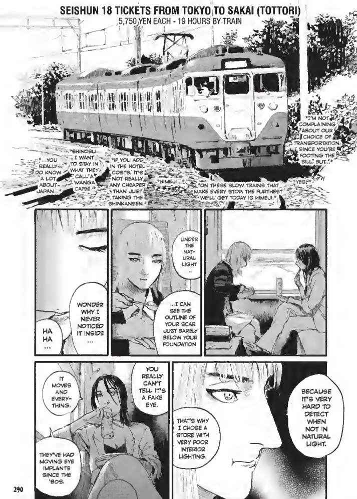

YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THE CURRENT STATE OF THE ISLAND ON WHICH YOU WERE BORN.
I THINK YOU'LL FIND IT FASCINATING.

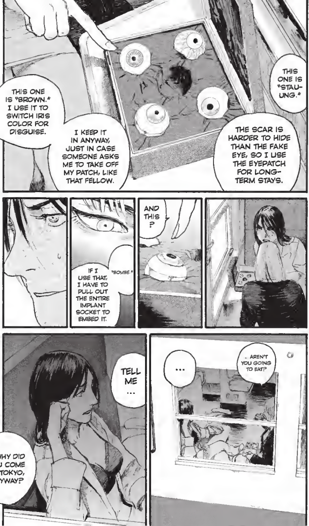
#9 - **Huoji** (END)

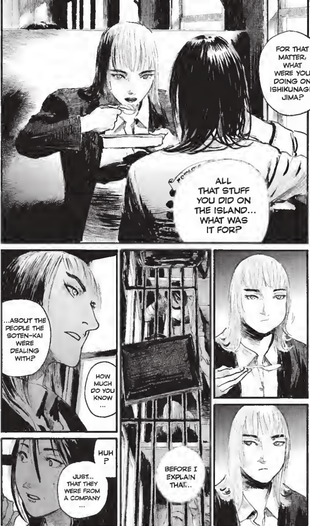
#10 - Flüchtling (Fugitive)

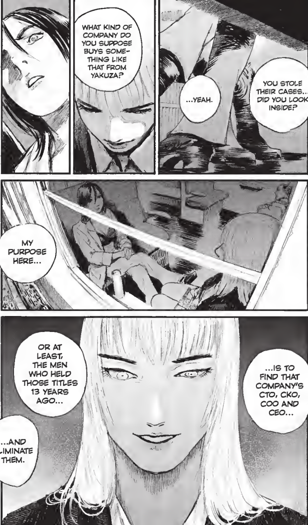

I'LL HAVE THE COLOR ASSORTMENT BENTO, THE EDO-STYLE BEACH CONGER OVER RICE, THE TWICE-COOKED SCULPIN AND EEL TRAY, AND THE GOLDEN MOCHI BENTO, PLEASE.
THAT'LL BE 3,200 YEN.
...OH.
AND ONE DRY CURRY BENTO.
THAT'LL BE 4,000 YEN, THEN.

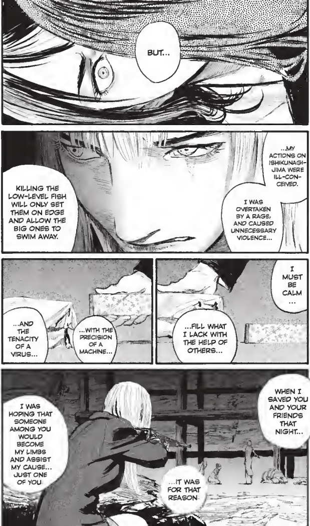

YOU TAKE HALF, SHINOBU.
TELL ME *BEFORE* I BUY THEM!!
TWO WOMEN CAN'T EAT FIVE LUNCHES!!
I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO BUY CURRY.
I WON'T PAY FOR THAT ONE
I BOUGHT IT BECAUSE I ASSUMED I'D NEED IT.
THAT'S FINE.
YOU LIKE TRAIN STATION BENTOS?
IT'S THE FIRST TIME.
I THOUGHT THEY LOOKED PRETTY ON THE INTERNET.
WHAT?
SHINOBU ...
IT'S COLD... THE BOX SUCKED THE MOISTURE OUT OF THE RICE.
CRAKK
バキッ
IT'S SURPRISINGLY HARD ...
HERE.

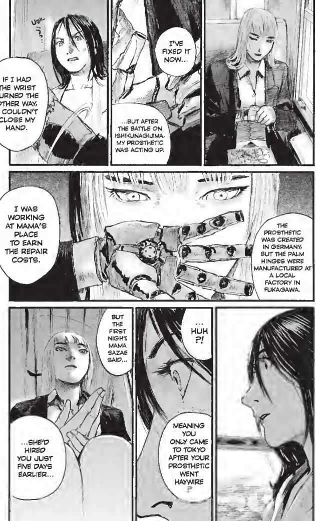

SEISHUN 18 TICKETS FROM TOKYO TO SAKAI (TOTTORI)
5,750 YEN EACH - 19 HOURS BY TRAIN
"I'M NOT COMPLAINING ABOUT OUR CHOICE OF TRANSPORTATION, SINCE YOU'RE FOOTING THE BILL," BUT..."
"YES?"
"ON THESE SLOW TRAINS THAT MAKE EVERY STOP, THE FURTHEST WE'LL GET TODAY IS HIMEJI."
"HIMEJI"
"IF YOU ADD IN THE HOTEL COSTS, IT'S NOT REALLY ANY CHEAPER THAN JUST TAKING THE SHINKANSEN"
"SHINOBU I WANT TO STAY IN WHAT THEY CALL A 'MANGA CAFÉ'"
"...YOU REALLY DO KNOW A LOT ABOUT JAPAN"
UNDER THE NATURAL LIGHT ...
...I CAN SEE THE OUTLINE OF YOUR SCAR JUST BARELY BELOW YOUR FOUNDATION
WONDER WHY I NEVER NOTICED IT INSIDE ...
HA HA ...
BECAUSE IT'S VERY HARD TO DETECT WHEN NOT IN NATURAL LIGHT.
THAT'S WHY I CHOSE A STORE WITH VERY POOR INTERIOR LIGHTING.
YOU REALLY CAN'T TELL IT'S A FAKE EYE.
IT MOVES AND EVERYTHING.
THEY'VE HAD MOVING EYE IMPLANTS SINCE THE '80S.

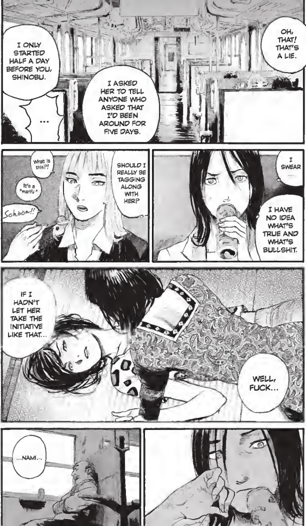

THIS ONE IS "STAU-UNG."
THE SCAR IS HARDER TO HIDE THAN THE FAKE EYE, SO I USE THE EYEPATCH FOR LONG-TERM STAYS.
I KEEP IT IN ANYWAY, JUST IN CASE SOMEONE ASKS ME TO TAKE OFF MY PATCH, LIKE THAT FELLOW.
THIS ONE IS "BROWN." I USE IT TO SWITCH IRIS COLOR FOR DISGUISE.
AND THIS?
"BOMBE."
IF I USE THAT, I HAVE TO PULL OUT THE ENTIRE IMPLANT SOCKET TO EMBED IT.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO EAT?
...
TELL ME...
...WHY DID YOU COME TO TOKYO, ANYWAY?

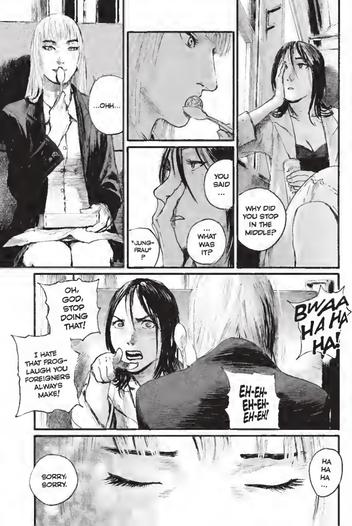

FOR THAT MATTER, WHAT WERE YOU DOING ON ISHIKUNAGI-JIMA?
ALL THAT STUFF YOU DID ON THE ISLAND... WHAT WAS IT FOR?
BEFORE I EXPLAIN THAT...
HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ...
...ABOUT THE PEOPLE THE SOTEN-KAI WERE DEALING WITH?
HUH?
JUST... THAT THEY WERE FROM A COMPANY ...

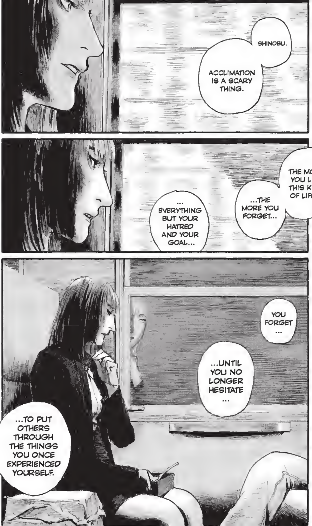

YOU STOLE THEIR CASES... DID YOU LOOK INSIDE?
...YEAH.
WHAT KIND OF COMPANY DO YOU SUPPOSE BUYS SOMETHING LIKE THAT FROM YAKUZA?
MY PURPOSE HERE...
...IS TO FIND THAT COMPANY'S CTO, CKO, COO AND CEO...
OR AT LEAST, THE MEN WHO HELD THOSE TITLES 13 YEARS AGO...
...AND ELIMINATE THEM.

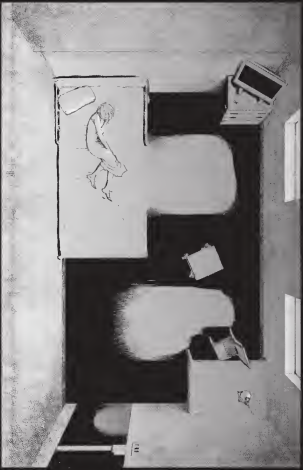

BUT...
...MY ACTIONS ON ISHIKUNAGI-JIMA WERE ILL-CONCEIVED.
I WAS OVERTAKEN BY A RAGE, AND CAUSED UNNECESSARY VIOLENCE...
KILLING THE LOW-LEVEL FISH WILL ONLY SET THEM ON EDGE AND ALLOW THE BIG ONES TO SWIM AWAY.
I MUST BE CALM...
...FILL WHAT I LACK WITH THE HELP OF OTHERS...
...WITH THE PRECISION OF A MACHINE...
...AND THE TENACITY OF A VIRUS...
WHEN I SAVED YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS THAT NIGHT...
...IT WAS FOR THAT REASON
I WAS HOPING THAT SOMEONE AMONG YOU WOULD BECOME MY LIMBS AND ASSIST MY CAUSE... JUST ONE OF YOU

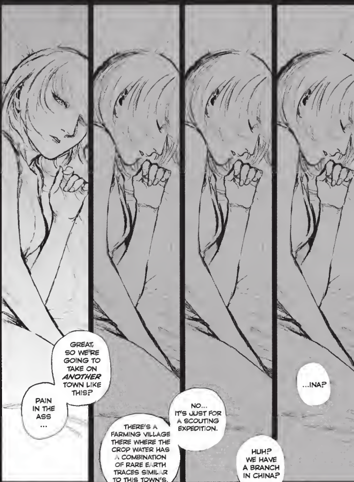

Ugh-
IF I HAD THE WRIST TURNED THE OTHER WAY, I COULDN'T CLOSE MY HAND.
I'VE FIXED IT NOW...
...BUT AFTER THE BATTLE ON ISHIKUNAGIJIMA, MY PROSTHETIC WAS ACTING UP.
THE PROSTHETIC WAS CREATED IN GERMANY, BUT THE PALM HINGES WERE MANUFACTURED AT A LOCAL FACTORY IN FUKAGAWA.
I WAS WORKING AT MAMA'S PLACE TO EARN THE REPAIR COSTS.
BUT THE FIRST NIGHT, MAMA SAZAE SAID...
...SHE'D HIRED YOU JUST FIVE DAYS EARLIER...
... HUH ?!
MEANING YOU ONLY CAME TO TOKYO AFTER YOUR PROSTHETIC WENT HAYWIRE ?

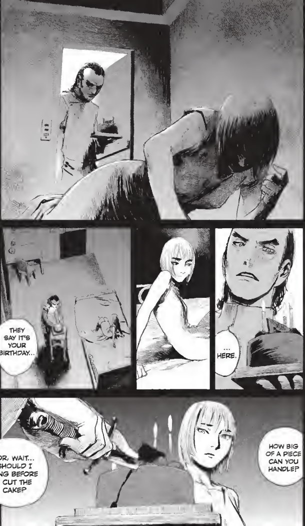

OH, THAT! THAT'S A LIE.
I ASKED HER TO TELL ANYONE WHO ASKED THAT I'D BEEN AROUND FOR FIVE DAYS.
I ONLY STARTED HALF A DAY BEFORE YOU, SHINOBU.
...
I SWEAR ...
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S TRUE AND WHAT'S BULLSHIT.
SHOULD I REALLY BE TAGGING ALONG WITH HER?
What is this?!
It's a "marifu."
Schoon!!
IF I HADN'T LET HER TAKE THE INITIATIVE LIKE THAT...
WELL, FUCK...
...NAMI...

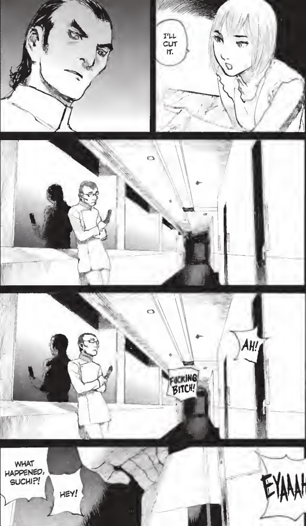

WHY DID YOU STOP IN THE MIDDLE?
YOU SAID ...
... WHAT WAS IT?
JUNG-FRAU?
...OHH...
BWAA HA HA HA!
EH-EH-EH-EH-EH-EH!
OH, GOD, STOP DOING THAT!
I HATE THAT FROG-LAUGH YOU FOREIGNERS ALWAYS MAKE!
HA HA HA ...
SORRY, SORRY.

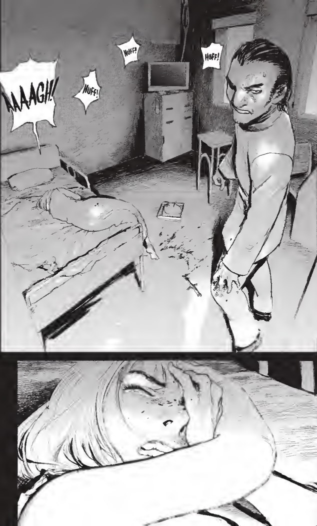

SHINOBU.
ACCLIMATION IS A SCARY THING.
THE MORE YOU LIVE THIS KIND OF LIFE...
...THE MORE YOU FORGET...
...EVERYTHING BUT YOUR HATRED AND YOUR GOAL...
YOU FORGET...
...UNTIL YOU NO LONGER HESITATE...
...TO PUT OTHERS THROUGH THE THINGS YOU ONCE EXPERIENCED YOURSELF.

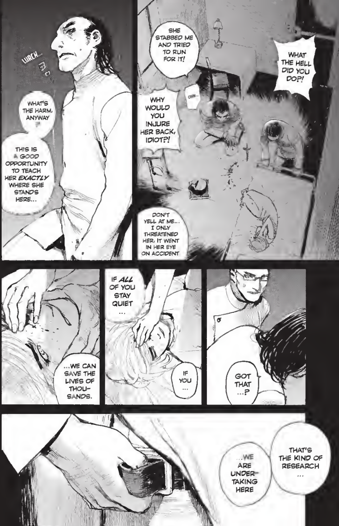


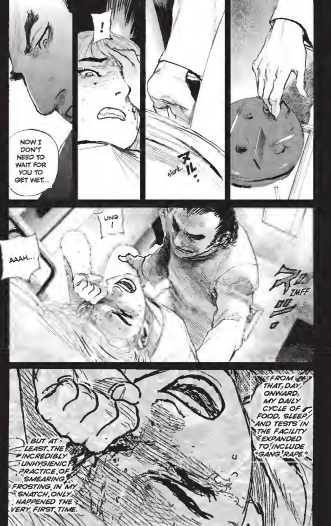

...INA?
HUH? WE HAVE A BRANCH IN CHINA?
NO... IT'S JUST FOR A SCOUTING EXPEDITION.
THERE'S A FARMING VILLAGE THERE WHERE THE CROP WATER HAS A COMBINATION OF RARE EARTH TRACES SIMILAR TO THIS TOWN'S.
GREAT, SO WE'RE GOING TO TAKE ON *ANOTHER* TOWN LIKE THIS?
PAIN IN THE ASS ...

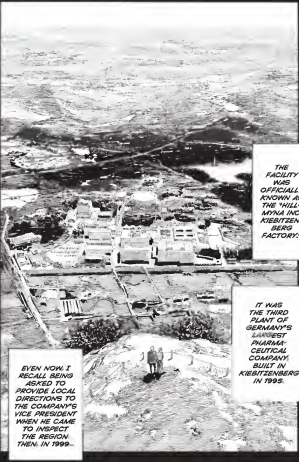

...HERE.
THEY SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY...
HOW BIG OF A PIECE CAN YOU HANDLE?
OR, WAIT... SHOULD I SING BEFORE I CUT THE CAKE?

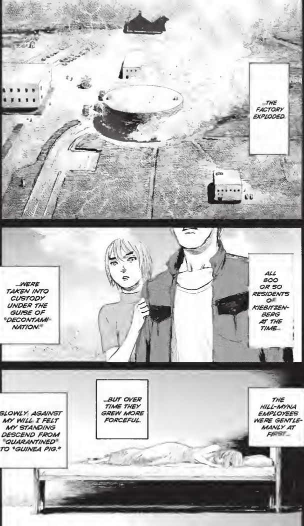

I'LL CUT IT.
AH!
FUCKING BITCH!
EYAAAH!!
HEY!
WHAT HAPPENED, SUCHI?!

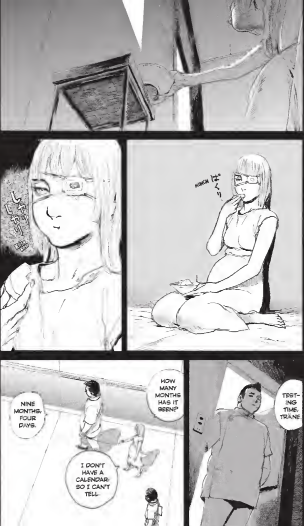

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
AAAAGH!

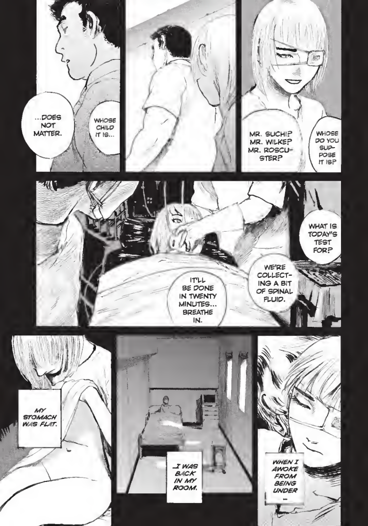

WHAT THE HELL DID YOU DO?!
SHE STABBED ME AND TRIED TO RUN FOR IT!
OWW...
WHY WOULD YOU INJURE HER BACK, IDIOT?!
DON'T YELL AT ME... I ONLY THREATENED HER, IT WENT IN HER EYE ON ACCIDENT
LURCH...
WHAT'S THE HARM, ANYWAY?
THIS IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH HER *EXACTLY* WHERE SHE STANDS HERE...
GOT THAT ...?
IF *ALL* OF YOU STAY QUIET ...
IF YOU ...
...WE CAN SAVE THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS.
THAT'S THE KIND OF RESEARCH ...
...WE ARE UNDERTAKING HERE

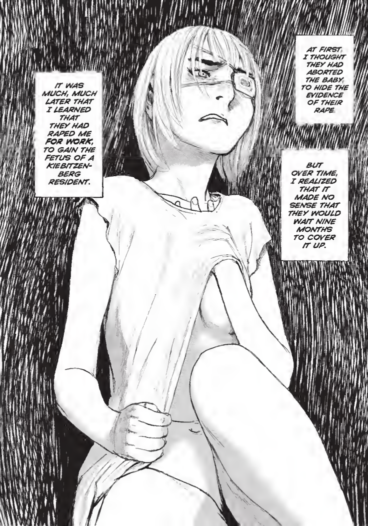

slurk
!
NOW I DON'T NEED TO WAIT FOR YOU TO GET WET...
ZMFF
UNG !
AAAH...
FROM THAT DAY ONWARD, MY DAILY CYCLE OF FOOD, SLEEP AND TESTS IN THE FACILITY EXPANDED TO INCLUDE "GANG RAPE."
BUT AT LEAST THE INCREDIBLY UNHYGIENIC PRACTICE OF SMEARING FROSTING IN MY SNATCH ONLY HAPPENED THE VERY FIRST TIME.

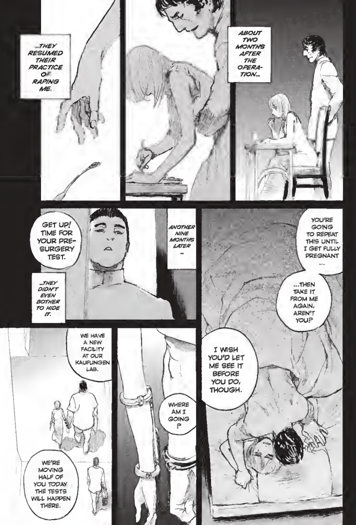

THE FACILITY WAS OFFICIALLY KNOWN AS THE "HILL-MYNA INC. KIEBITZENBERG FACTORY."
IT WAS THE THIRD PLANT OF GERMANY'S LARGEST PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY, BUILT IN KIEBITZENBERG IN 1995.
EVEN NOW, I RECALL BEING ASKED TO PROVIDE LOCAL DIRECTIONS TO THE COMPANY'S VICE PRESIDENT WHEN HE CAME TO INSPECT THE REGION THEN, IN 1999...

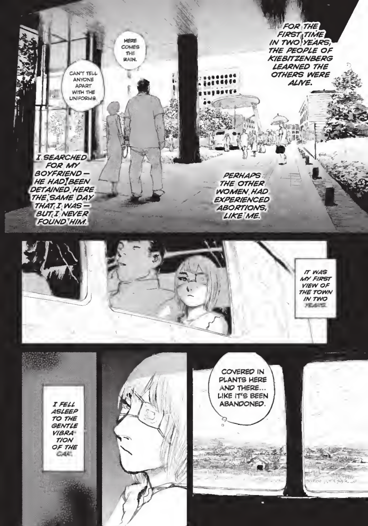

...THE FACTORY EXPLODED.
ALL 800 OR SO RESIDENTS OF KIEBITZENBERG AT THE TIME...
...WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY UNDER THE GUISE OF "DECONTAMINATION."
THE HILL-MYNA EMPLOYEES WERE GENTLEMANLY AT FIRST...
...BUT OVER TIME THEY GREW MORE FORCEFUL.
SLOWLY, AGAINST MY WILL, I FELT MY STANDING DESCEND FROM "QUARANTINED" TO "GUINEA PIG."

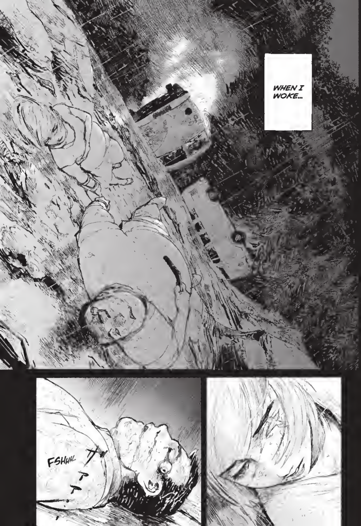

ぱくり
MUNCH
しゃりしゃり
KRSH KRSH
TESTING TIME, TRANE.
HOW MANY MONTHS HAS IT BEEN?
NINE MONTHS, FOUR DAYS.
I DON'T HAVE A CALENDAR, SO I CAN'T TELL.

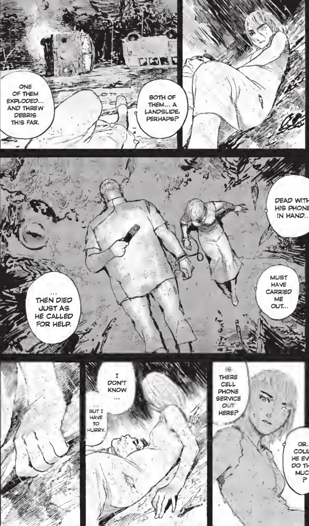

WHOSE DO YOU SUP-POSE IT IS?
MR. SUCHI? MR. WILKE? MR. ROSCU-STER?
WHOSE CHILD IT IS...
...DOES NOT MATTER.
WHAT IS TODAY'S TEST FOR?
WE'RE COLLECTING A BIT OF SPINAL FLUID.
IT'LL BE DONE IN TWENTY MINUTES... BREATHE IN.
WHEN I AWOKE FROM BEING UNDER
...I WAS BACK IN MY ROOM.
MY STOMACH WAS FLAT.

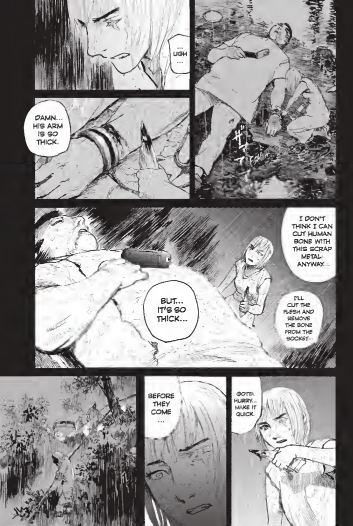

AT FIRST, I THOUGHT THEY HAD ABORTED THE BABY, TO HIDE THE EVIDENCE OF THEIR RAPE.
BUT OVER TIME, I REALIZED THAT IT MADE NO SENSE THAT THEY WOULD WAIT NINE MONTHS TO COVER IT UP.
IT WAS MUCH, MUCH LATER THAT I LEARNED THAT THEY HAD RAPED ME **FOR WORK**, TO GAIN THE FETUS OF A KIEBITZENBERG RESIDENT.

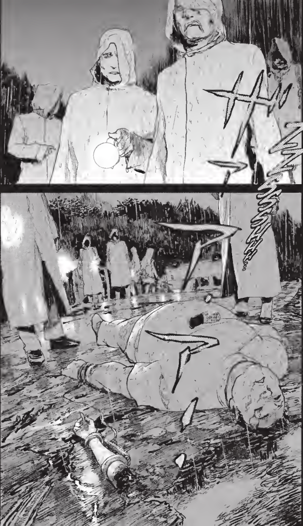

ABOUT TWO MONTHS AFTER THE OPERATION...
...THEY RESUMED THEIR PRACTICE OF RAPING ME.
YOU'RE GOING TO REPEAT THIS UNTIL I GET FULLY PREGNANT...
...THEN TAKE IT FROM ME AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
I WISH YOU'D LET ME SEE IT BEFORE YOU DO, THOUGH.
ANOTHER NINE MONTHS LATER...
GET UP! TIME FOR YOUR PRE-SURGERY TEST.
...THEY DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO HIDE IT.
WHERE AM I GOING?
WE HAVE A NEW FACILITY AT OUR KAUFUNGEN LAB.
WE'RE MOVING HALF OF YOU TODAY. THE TESTS WILL HAPPEN THERE.


FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS, THE PEOPLE OF KIEBITZENBERG LEARNED THE OTHERS WERE ALIVE.
HERE COMES THE RAIN.
CAN'T TELL ANYONE APART WITH THE UNIFORMS.
PERHAPS THE OTHER WOMEN HAD EXPERIENCED ABORTIONS, LIKE ME.
I SEARCHED FOR MY BOYFRIEND — HE HAD BEEN DETAINED HERE THE SAME DAY THAT I WAS — BUT I NEVER FOUND HIM.
IT WAS MY FIRST VIEW OF THE TOWN IN TWO YEARS.
COVERED IN PLANTS HERE AND THERE... LIKE IT'S BEEN ABANDONED.
I FELL ASLEEP TO THE GENTLE VIBRATION OF THE CAR.

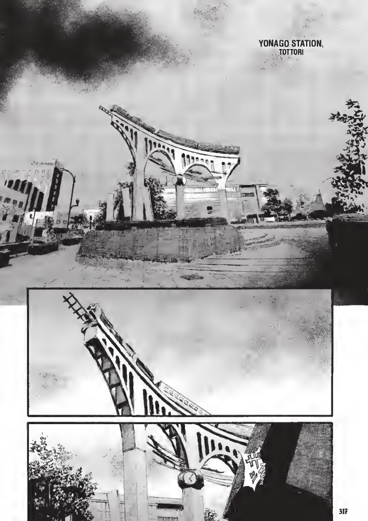

WHEN I WOKE...
FSHHH
ザァァ


BOTH OF THEM... A LANDSLIDE, PERHAPS?
ONE OF THEM EXPLODED... AND THREW DEBRIS THIS FAR.
DEAD WITH HIS PHONE IN HAND...
MUST HAVE CARRIED ME OUT...
... THEN DIED JUST AS HE CALLED FOR HELP.
IS THERE CELL PHONE SERVICE OUT HERE?
OR... COULD HE EVEN DO THAT MUCH?
I DON'T KNOW...
BUT I HAVE TO HURRY.

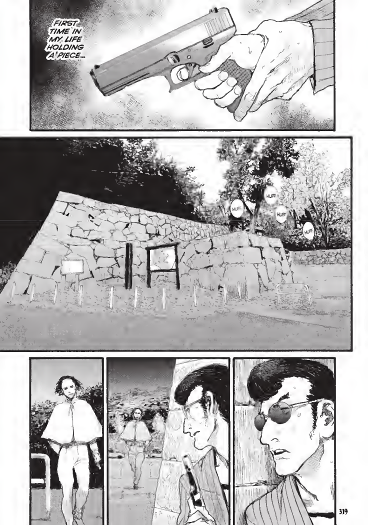

... UGH ...
DAMN... HIS ARM IS SO THICK.
I DON'T THINK I CAN CUT HUMAN BONE WITH THIS SCRAP METAL ANYWAY...
I'LL CUT THE FLESH AND REMOVE THE BONE FROM THE SOCKET...
BUT... IT'S SO THICK...
GOTTA HURRY... MAKE IT QUICK.
BEFORE THEY COME ...

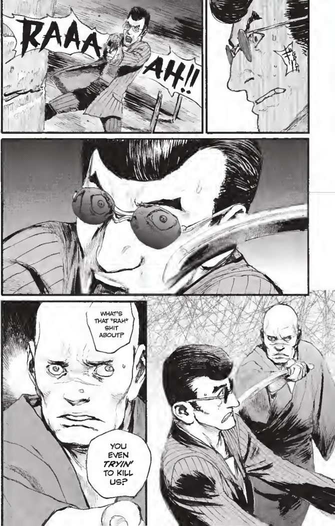


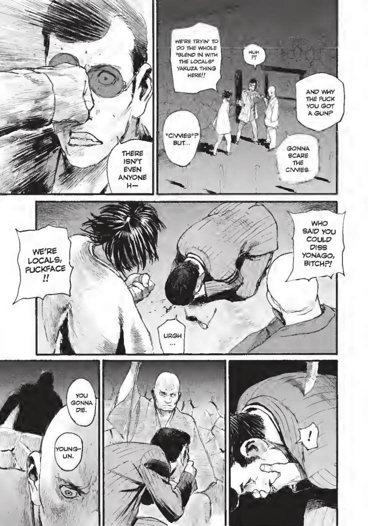
#10 - Flüchtling (END)

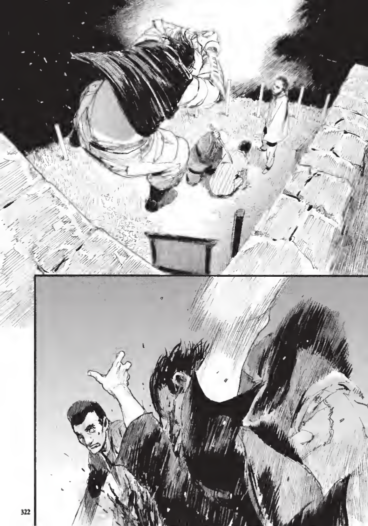

YONAGO STATION,
TOTTORI
ザッ

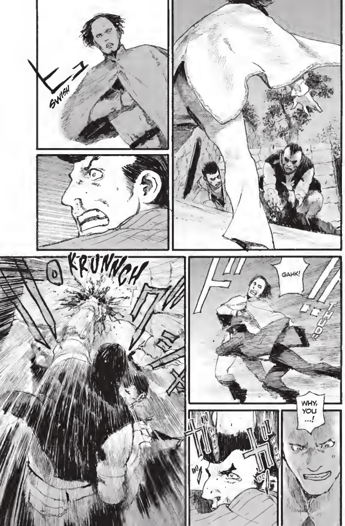
#11 - Kyoensha (Banqueters)

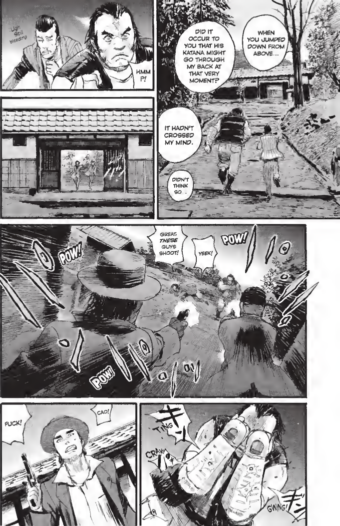

FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE HOLDING A PIECE...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

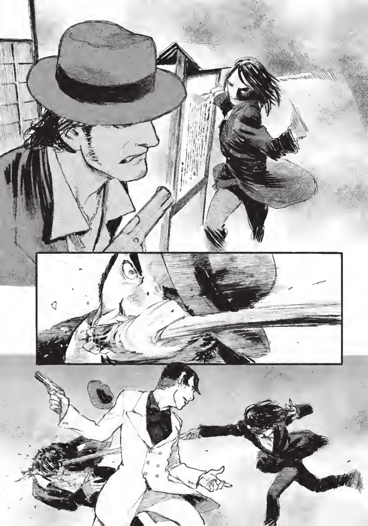

GRIT
RAAAAH!!
WHAT'S THAT "RAH" SHIT ABOUT?
YOU EVEN *TRYIN'* TO KILL US?

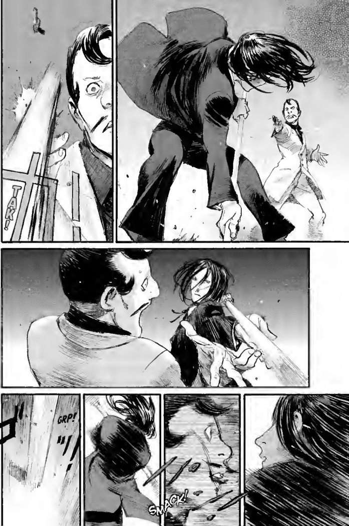

AND WHY THE FUCK YOU GOT A GUN?
HUH ?!
WE'RE TRYIN' TO DO THE WHOLE "BLEND IN WITH THE LOCALS" YAKUZA THING HERE!!
GONNA SCARE THE CIVVIES
"CIVVIES"? BUT...
THERE ISN'T EVEN ANYONE H—
WHO SAID YOU COULD DISS YONAGO, BITCH?!
WE'RE LOCALS, FUCKFACE!!
URGH...
!
YOU GONNA DIE.
YOUNG-UN.

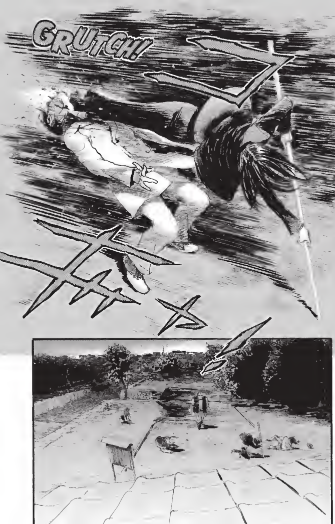


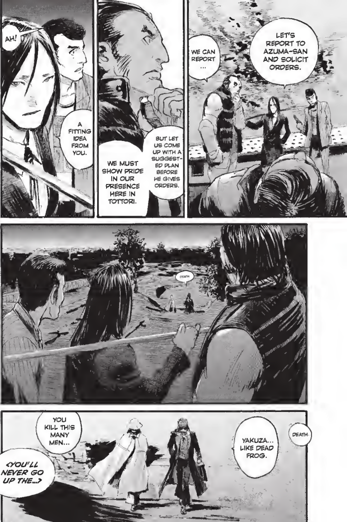

ヒュ
SWISH
GAHK!
THUD!
KRUNNCH
WHY, YOU ...!

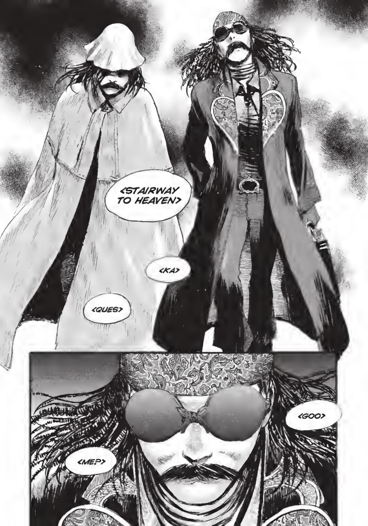

WHEN YOU JUMPED DOWN FROM ABOVE...
DID IT OCCUR TO YOU THAT HIS KATANA MIGHT GO THROUGH MY BACK AT THAT VERY MOMENT?
IT HADN'T CROSSED MY MIND.
DIDN'T THINK SO.
Ugh Still bleeding
HMM ?!
POW!
YEEK!
GREAT, THESE GUYS SHOOT!
POW!
POW!
TING
CRAK
GWING!
CAO!
FUCK!

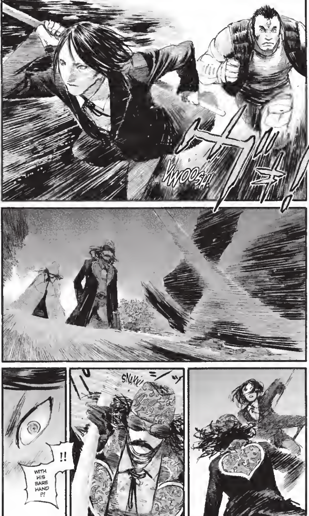


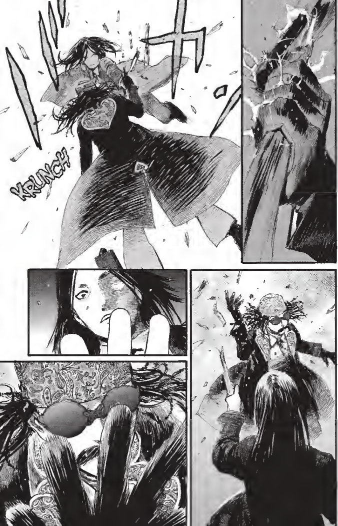

TAK!
SMACK!
GRP!
ゴ

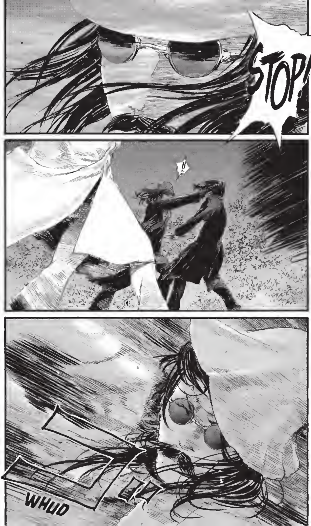

GRUTCH!

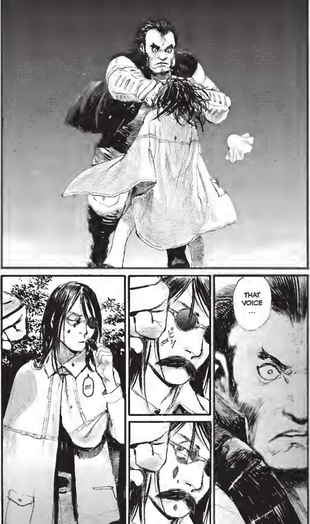

LET'S REPORT TO AZUMA-SAN AND SOLICIT ORDERS.
WE CAN REPORT ...
BUT LET US COME UP WITH A SUGGESTED PLAN BEFORE HE GIVES ORDERS.
WE MUST SHOW PRIDE IN OUR PRESENCE HERE IN TOTTORI.
AH!
A FITTING IDEA FROM YOU.
DEATH.
DEATH.
YAKUZA... LIKE DEAD FROG.
YOU KILL THIS MANY MEN...
<YOU'LL NEVER GO UP THE...>

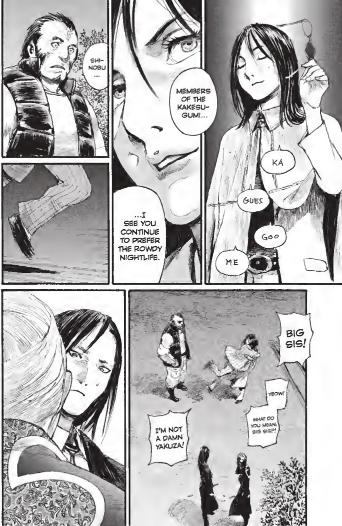


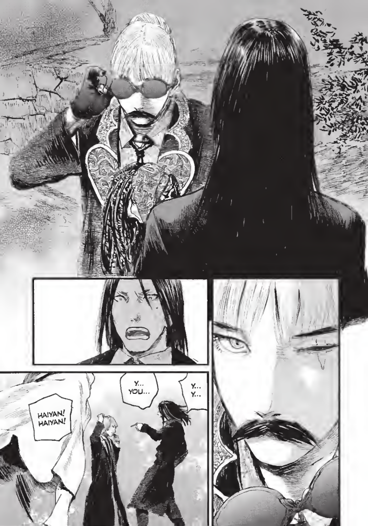

VWOOSH!
SNAKK!
!!
WITH HIS BARE HAND ?!

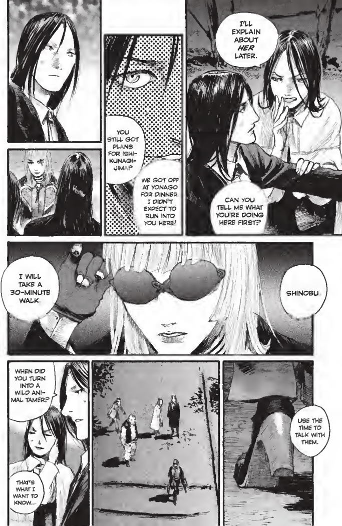

KRUNCH

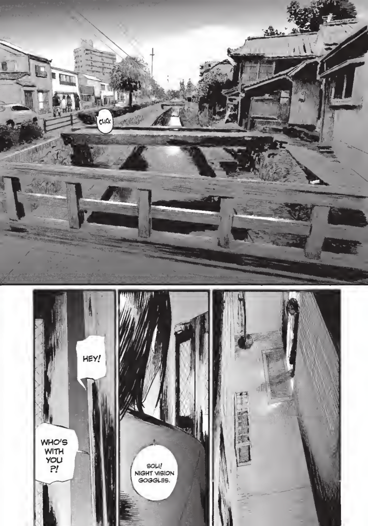

STOP!
!!
WHUD

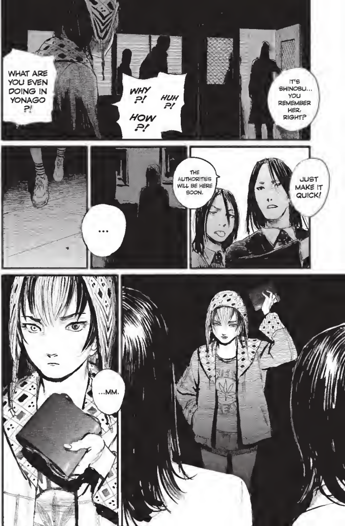

RIP
CRIK
THAT VOICE ...

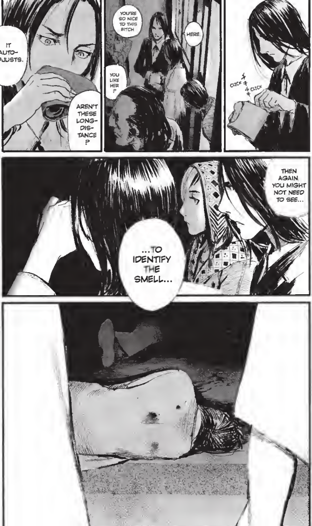

KA
GUES
GOO
ME
MEMBERS OF THE KAKESUGUMI...
...I SEE YOU CONTINUE TO PREFER THE ROWDY NIGHTLIFE.
SHINOBU ...
BIG SIS!
YEOW!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, BIG SIS?!
I'M NOT A DAMN YAKUZA!

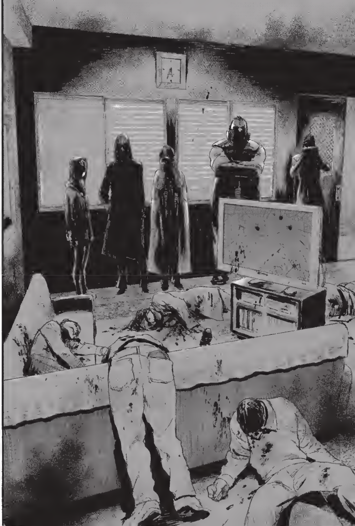

Y...
Y...
Y...
YOU...
HAIYAN!
HAIYAN!


I'LL EXPLAIN ABOUT *HER* LATER.
CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE FIRST?
YOU STILL GOT PLANS FOR ISHIKUNAGIJIMA?
WE GOT OFF AT YONAGO FOR DINNER. I DIDN'T EXPECT TO RUN INTO YOU HERE!
SHINOBU.
I WILL TAKE A 30-MINUTE WALK.
USE THE TIME TO TALK WITH THEM.
WHEN DID YOU TURN INTO A WILD ANIMAL TAMER?
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW...


CLICK
SOLI! NIGHT VISION GOGGLES.
HEY!
WHO'S WITH YOU ?!


IT'S SHINOBU... YOU REMEMBER HER, RIGHT?
HUH ?!
WHY ?! HOW ?!
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN DOING IN YONAGO ?!
JUST MAKE IT QUICK!
THE AUTHORITIES WILL BE HERE SOON.
...
...MM.


CLICK CLICK
HERE.
YOU'RE SO NICE TO THIS BITCH
YOU LIKE HER?
IT AUTO-ADJUSTS.
AREN'T THESE LONG-DISTANCE?
THEN AGAIN YOU MIGHT NOT NEED TO SEE...
...TO IDENTIFY THE SMELL...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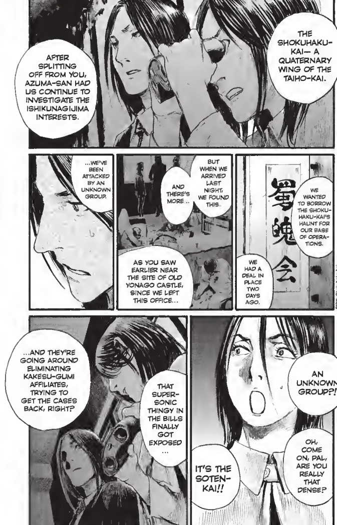
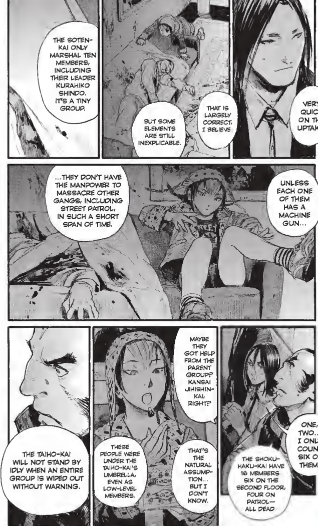
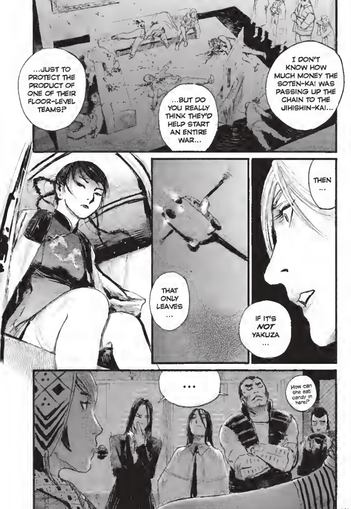
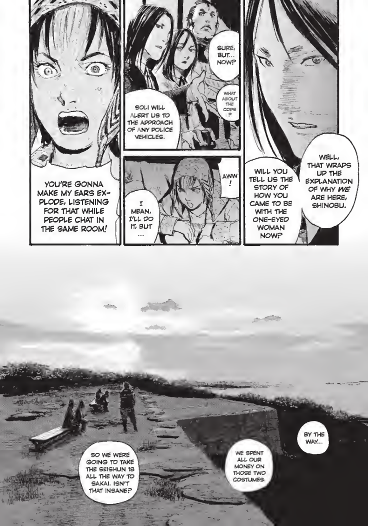
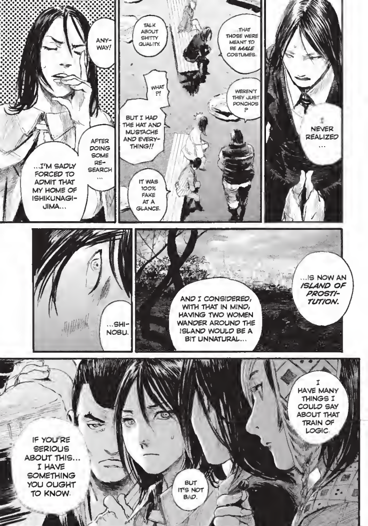
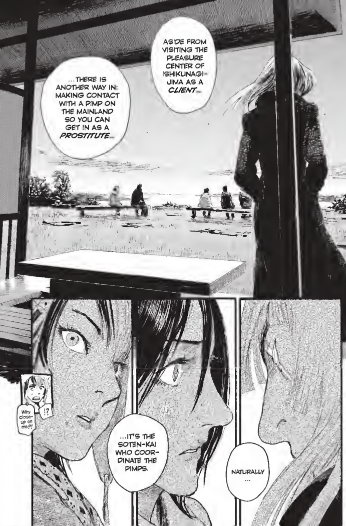

THE SHOKUHAKU-KAI— A QUATERNARY WING OF THE TAIHO-KAI.
AFTER SPLITTING OFF FROM YOU, AZUMA-SAN HAD US CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE THE ISHIKUNAGIJIMA INTERESTS.
蜀晩会
WE WANTED TO BORROW THE SHOKUHAKU-KAI'S HAUNT FOR OUR BASE OF OPERATIONS.
WE HAD A DEAL IN PLACE TWO DAYS AGO.
SIGN Shokuhaku-kai
BUT WHEN WE ARRIVED LAST NIGHT, WE FOUND THIS.
AND THERE'S MORE...
AS YOU SAW EARLIER NEAR THE SITE OF OLD YONAGO CASTLE, SINCE WE LEFT THIS OFFICE...
...WE'VE BEEN ATTACKED BY AN UNKNOWN GROUP.
AN UNKNOWN GROUP?!
OH, COME ON, PAL, ARE YOU REALLY THAT DENSE?
IT'S THE SOTEN-KAI!!
THAT SUPERSONIC THINGY IN THE BILLS FINALLY GOT EXPOSED...
...AND THEY'RE GOING AROUND ELIMINATING KAKESU-GUMI AFFILIATES, TRYING TO GET THE CASES BACK, RIGHT?


THE SOTEN-KAI ONLY MARSHAL TEN MEMBERS, INCLUDING THEIR LEADER KURAHIKO SHINDO. IT'S A TINY GROUP.
THAT IS LARGELY CORRECT, I BELIEVE.
BUT SOME ELEMENTS ARE STILL INEXPLICABLE.
VERY QUICK ON THE UPTAKE.
...THEY DON'T HAVE THE MANPOWER TO MASSACRE OTHER GANGS, INCLUDING STREET PATROL, IN SUCH A SHORT SPAN OF TIME.
UNLESS EACH ONE OF THEM HAS A MACHINE GUN...
THE TAIHO-KAI WILL NOT STAND BY IDLY WHEN AN ENTIRE GROUP IS WIPED OUT WITHOUT WARNING.
MAYBE THEY GOT HELP FROM THE PARENT GROUP? KANSAI JIHISHIN-KAI, RIGHT?
THESE PEOPLE WERE UNDER THE TAIHO-KAI'S UMBRELLA, EVEN AS LOW-LEVEL MEMBERS.
THAT'S THE NATURAL ASSUMPTION... BUT I DON'T KNOW.
ONE, TWO... I ONLY COUNT SIX OF THEM.
THE SHOKU-HAKU-KAI HAVE 16 MEMBERS SIX ON THE SECOND FLOOR, FOUR ON PATROL— ALL DEAD


I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MONEY THE SOTEN-KAI WAS PASSING UP THE CHAIN TO THE JIHISHIN-KAI...
...BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'D HELP START AN ENTIRE WAR...
...JUST TO PROTECT THE PRODUCT OF ONE OF THEIR FLOOR-LEVEL TEAMS?
THEN ...
IF IT'S *NOT* YAKUZA ...
THAT ONLY LEAVES ...
How can she eat candy in here?
...


WELL, THAT WRAPS UP THE EXPLANATION OF WHY *WE* ARE HERE, SHINOBU.
WILL YOU TELL US THE STORY OF HOW YOU CAME TO BE WITH THE ONE-EYED WOMAN NOW?
SURE, BUT... NOW?
WHAT ABOUT THE COPS ?
SOLI WILL ALERT US TO THE APPROACH OF ANY POLICE VEHICLES.
AWW !
I MEAN, I'LL DO IT, BUT ...
YOU'RE GONNA MAKE MY EARS EXPLODE, LISTENING FOR THAT WHILE PEOPLE CHAT IN THE SAME ROOM!
BY THE WAY...
WE SPENT ALL OUR MONEY ON THOSE TWO COSTUMES.
SO WE WERE GOING TO TAKE THE SEISHUN 18 ALL THE WAY TO SAKAI. ISN'T THAT INSANE?


I NEVER REALIZED...
THAT THOSE WERE MEANT TO BE *MALE* COSTUMES.
WEREN'T THEY JUST PONCHOS?
TALK ABOUT SHITTY QUALITY.
WHAT?!
BUT I HAD THE HAT AND MUSTACHE AND EVERYTHING!!
IT WAS 100% FAKE AT A GLANCE.
ANYWAY!
AFTER DOING SOME RESEARCH...
...I'M SADLY FORCED TO ADMIT THAT MY HOME OF ISHIKUNAGIJIMA...
...IS NOW AN *ISLAND OF PROSTITUTION.*
AND I CONSIDERED, WITH THAT IN MIND, HAVING TWO WOMEN WANDER AROUND THE ISLAND WOULD BE A BIT UNNATURAL...
...SHINOBU.
I HAVE MANY THINGS I COULD SAY ABOUT THAT TRAIN OF LOGIC.
BUT IT'S NOT BAD.
IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS... I HAVE SOMETHING YOU OUGHT TO KNOW.

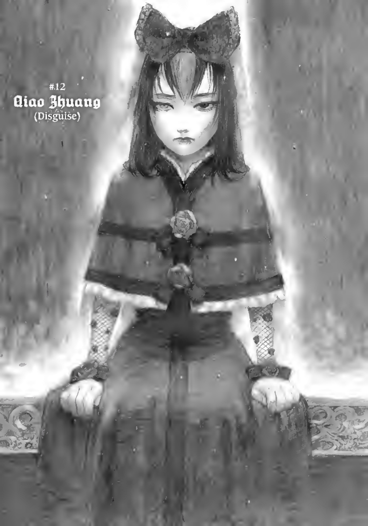

ASIDE FROM VISITING THE PLEASURE CENTER OF ISHIKUNAGI-JIMA AS A *CLIENT*...
...THERE IS ANOTHER WAY IN: MAKING CONTACT WITH A PIMP ON THE MAINLAND SO YOU CAN GET IN AS A *PROSTITUTE*...
NATURALLY ...
...IT'S THE SOTEN-KAI WHO COORDINATE THE PIMPS.
!?
Why close-up on me?!

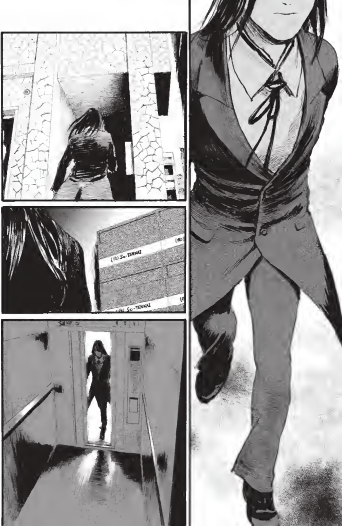
#11 - Kyoensha (END)

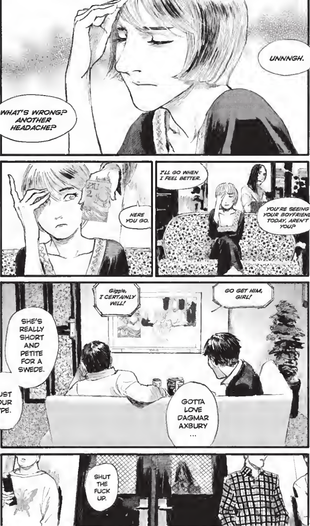
#12

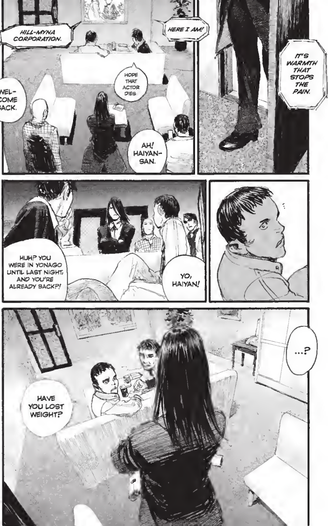
Qiao Zhuang

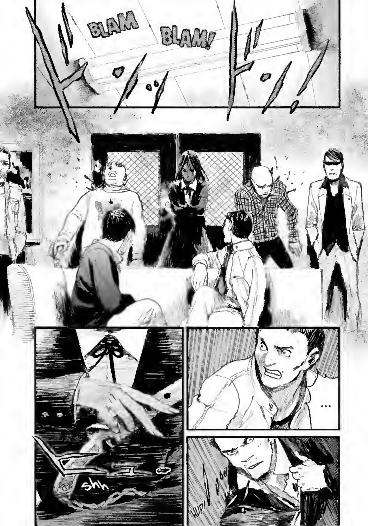
(Disguise)

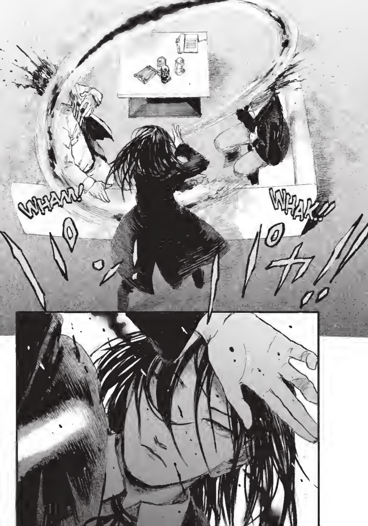


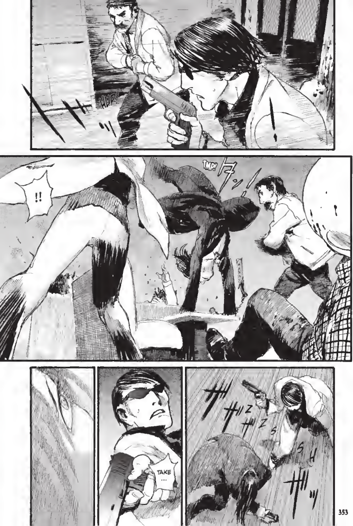

(株) So-TENKAI
(株) So-TENKAI

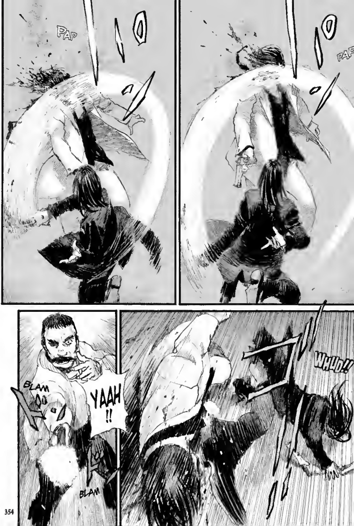

UNNNGH.
WHAT'S WRONG? ANOTHER HEADACHE?
HERE YOU GO.
I'LL GO WHEN I FEEL BETTER.
YOU'RE SEEING YOUR BOYFRIEND TODAY, AREN'T YOU?
Giggle, I CERTAINLY WILL!
GO GET HIM, GIRL!
SHE'S REALLY SHORT AND PETITE FOR A SWEDE.
JUST YOUR TYPE.
GOTTA LOVE DAGMAR AXBURY ...
SHUT THE FUCK UP.

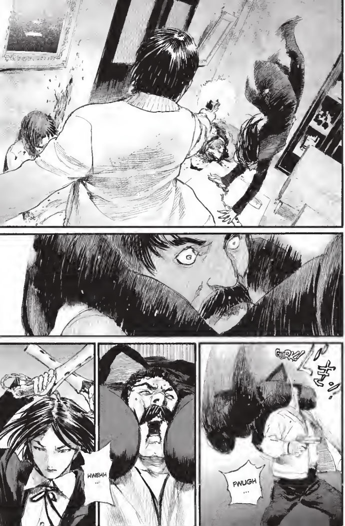

IT'S WARMTH THAT STOPS THE PAIN.
HERE I AM!
HILL-MYNA CORPORATION.
HOPE THAT ACTOR DIES
AH! HAIYAN-SAN.
WEL-COME BACK.
YO, HAIYAN!
HUH? YOU WERE IN YONAGO UNTIL LAST NIGHT, AND YOU'RE ALREADY BACK?!
...?
HAVE YOU LOST WEIGHT?

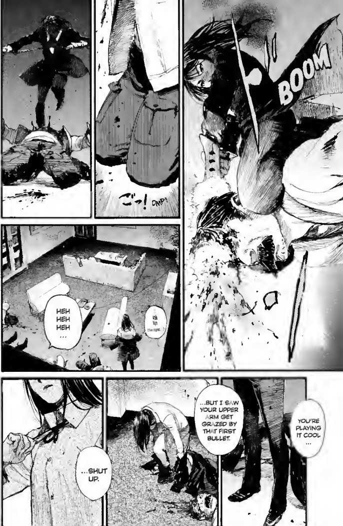

BLAM
BLAM!
ドッ
ドッ!
...
shh
HUP!

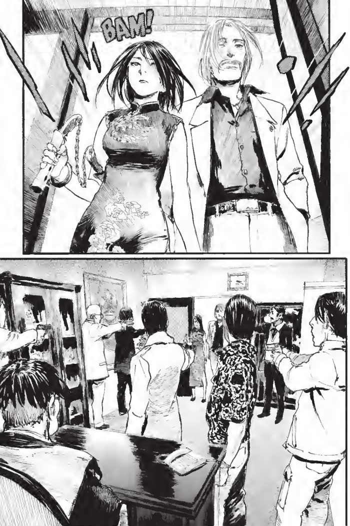

WHAK!!
パカ!!
WHAM!
パ

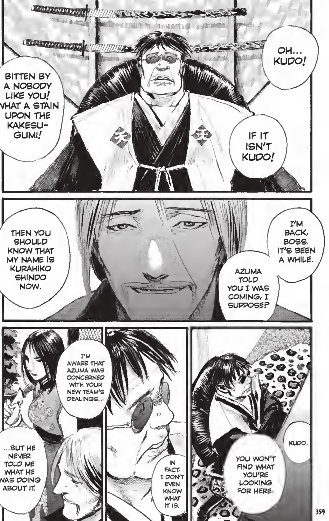

HUP!
!
TMP! タン!
!!
TAKE ...
ZZZSH
ザッ

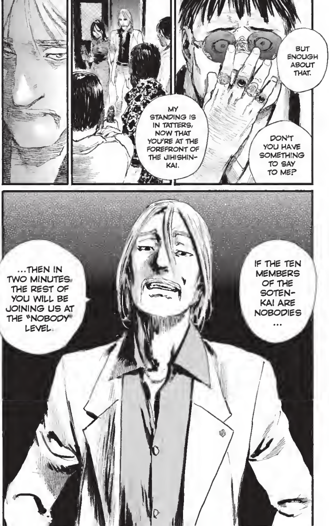

PAP
PAP
WHUD!!
BLAM
YAAH!!
BLAM

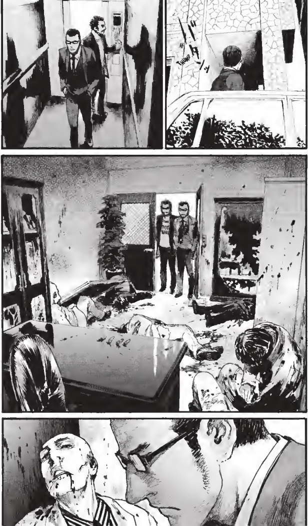

GURK!
FWUGH ...
HWEHH ...

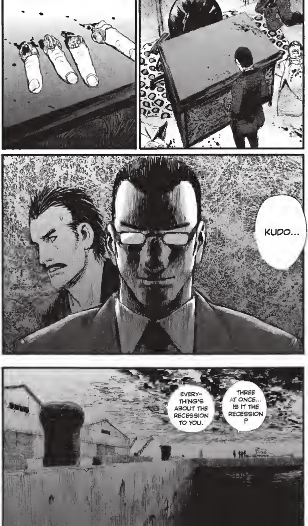

BOOM
ごっ! DMP!
(The fight.
HEH HEH HEH ...
YOU'RE PLAYING IT COOL ...
...BUT I SAW YOUR UPPER ARM GET GRAZED BY THAT FIRST BULLET.
...SHUT UP.

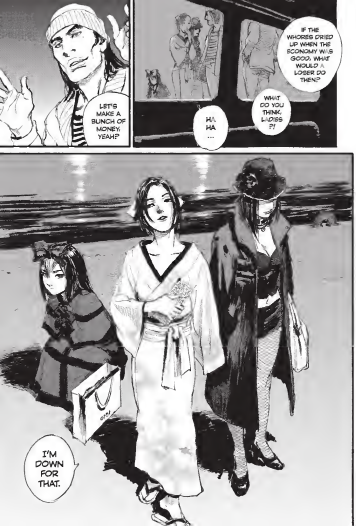

BAM!

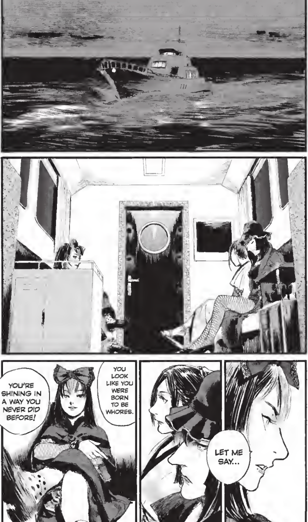

OH... KUDO!
IF IT ISN'T KUDO!
BITTEN BY A NOBODY LIKE YOU! WHAT A STAIN UPON THE KAKESU-GUMI!
I'M BACK, BOSS. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.
AZUMA TOLD YOU I WAS COMING, I SUPPOSE?
THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT MY NAME IS KURAHIKO SHINDO NOW.
KUDO.
YOU WON'T FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HERE.
I'M AWARE THAT AZUMA WAS CONCERNED WITH YOUR NEW TEAM'S DEALINGS...
...BUT HE NEVER TOLD ME WHAT HE WAS DOING ABOUT IT.
IN FACT, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT IS.

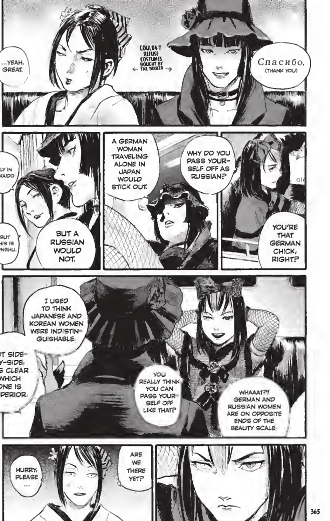

MY STANDING IS IN TATTERS, NOW THAT YOU'RE AT THE FOREFRONT OF THE JIHISHIN-KAI.
BUT ENOUGH ABOUT THAT.
DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME?
IF THE TEN MEMBERS OF THE SOTEN-KAI ARE NOBODIES ...
...THEN IN TWO MINUTES, THE REST OF YOU WILL BE JOINING US AT THE "NOBODY" LEVEL.

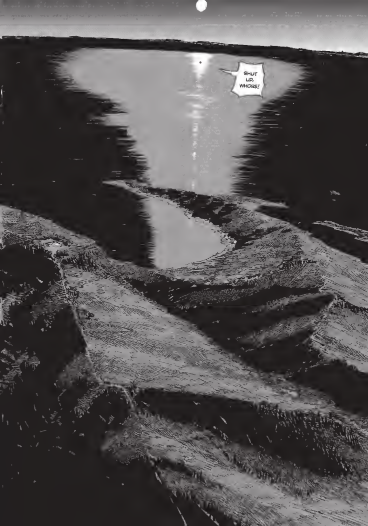

THUMP

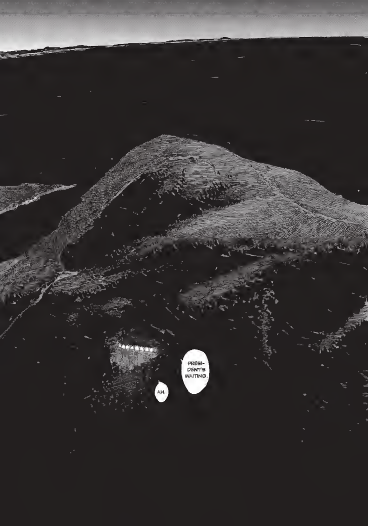

KUDO...
THREE AT ONCE... IS IT THE RECESSION?
EVERYTHING'S ABOUT THE RECESSION TO YOU.

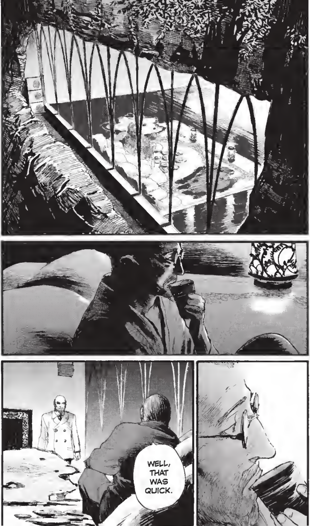

IF THE WHORES DRIED UP WHEN THE ECONOMY WAS GOOD, WHAT WOULD A LOSER DO THEN?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, LADIES ?!
HA HA ...
LET'S MAKE A BUNCH OF MONEY, YEAH?
0101
I'M DOWN FOR THAT.

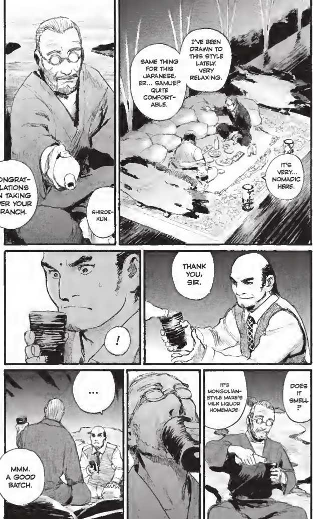

YOU'RE SHINING IN A WAY YOU NEVER DID BEFORE!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WERE BORN TO BE WHORES.
LET ME SAY...

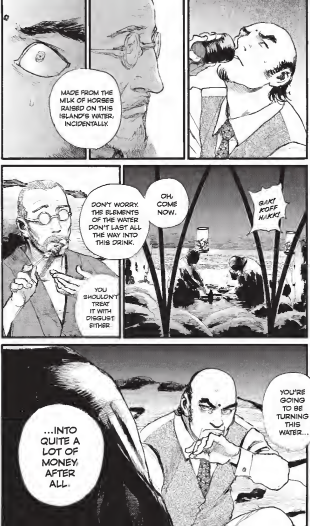

Спасибо.
(THANK YOU)
COULDN'T REFUSE COSTUMES BOUGHT BY THE YAKUZA
...YEAH. GREAT.
YOU'RE THAT GERMAN CHICK, RIGHT?
WHY DO YOU PASS YOURSELF OFF AS RUSSIAN?
A GERMAN WOMAN TRAVELING ALONE IN JAPAN WOULD STICK OUT.
BUT A RUSSIAN WOULD NOT.
ONLY IN HOKKAIDO
BUT THIS IS HONSHU.
I USED TO THINK JAPANESE AND KOREAN WOMEN WERE INDISTINGUISHABLE.
BUT SIDE-BY-SIDE IT'S CLEAR WHICH ONE IS SUPERIOR.
WHAAAT?! GERMAN AND RUSSIAN WOMEN ARE ON OPPOSITE ENDS OF THE BEAUTY SCALE.
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN PASS YOURSELF OFF LIKE THAT?
ARE WE THERE YET?
HURRY, PLEASE ...

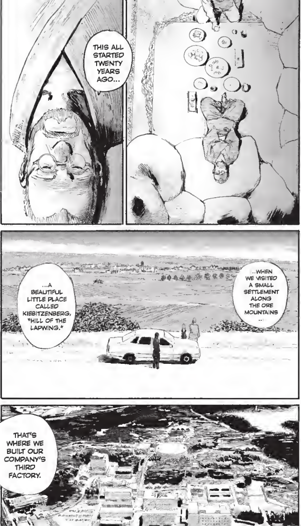

SHUT UP, WHORE!

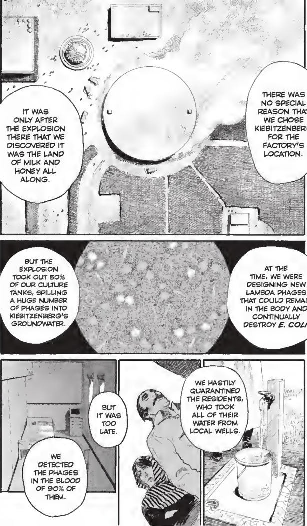

PRESI-DENT'S WAITING.
AH.

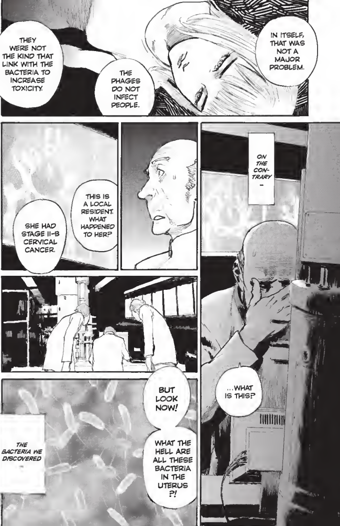

WELL, THAT WAS QUICK.

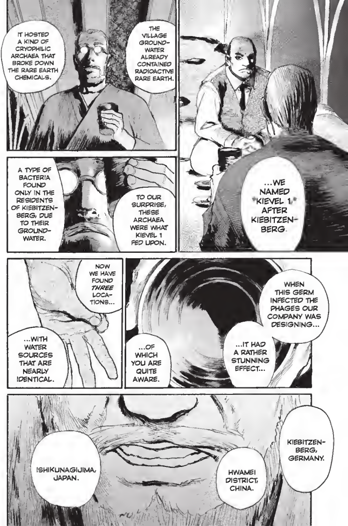

I'VE BEEN DRAWN TO THIS STYLE LATELY. VERY RELAXING.
SAME THING FOR THIS JAPANESE, ER... SAMUE? QUITE COMFORTABLE.
IT'S VERY... NOMADIC HERE.
CONGRATULATIONS ON TAKING OVER YOUR BRANCH.
SHIROE-KUN.
THANK YOU, SIR.
!
DOES IT SMELL?
IT'S MONGOLIAN-STYLE MARE'S MILK LIQUOR HOMEMADE.
...
MMM. A GOOD BATCH.

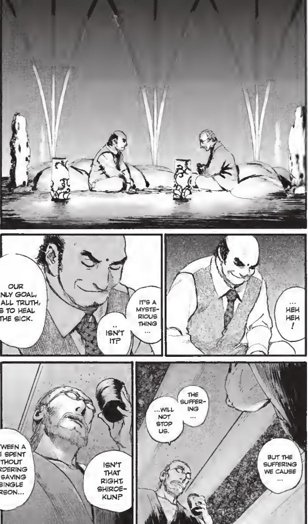

MADE FROM THE MILK OF HORSES RAISED ON THIS ISLAND'S WATER, INCIDENTALLY.
GAK! KOFF HAKK!
OH, COME NOW.
DON'T WORRY. THE ELEMENTS OF THE WATER DON'T LAST ALL THE WAY INTO THIS DRINK.
YOU SHOULDN'T TREAT IT WITH DISGUST EITHER.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE TURNING THIS WATER...
...INTO QUITE A LOT OF MONEY, AFTER ALL.

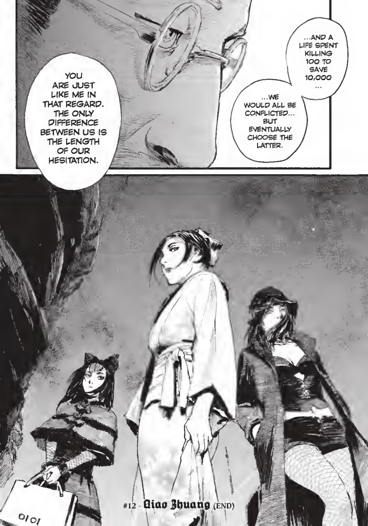

THIS ALL STARTED TWENTY YEARS AGO...
..WHEN WE VISITED A SMALL SETTLEMENT ALONG THE ORE MOUNTAINS ...
...A BEAUTIFUL LITTLE PLACE CALLED KIEBITZENBERG, "HILL OF THE LAPWING."
THAT'S WHERE WE BUILT OUR COMPANY'S THIRD FACTORY.


THERE WAS NO SPECIAL REASON THAT WE CHOSE KIEBITZENBERG FOR THE FACTORY'S LOCATION.
IT WAS ONLY AFTER THE EXPLOSION THERE THAT WE DISCOVERED IT WAS THE LAND OF MILK AND HONEY ALL ALONG.
AT THE TIME, WE WERE DESIGNING NEW LAMBDA PHAGES THAT COULD REMAIN IN THE BODY AND CONTINUALLY DESTROY *E. COLI*.
BUT THE EXPLOSION TOOK OUT 50% OF OUR CULTURE TANKS, SPILLING A HUGE NUMBER OF PHAGES INTO KIEBITZENBERG'S GROUNDWATER.
WE HASTILY QUARANTINED THE RESIDENTS, WHO TOOK ALL OF THEIR WATER FROM LOCAL WELLS.
BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.
WE DETECTED THE PHAGES IN THE BLOOD OF 90% OF THEM.


IN ITSELF, THAT WAS NOT A MAJOR PROBLEM.
THE PHAGES DO NOT INFECT PEOPLE.
THEY WERE NOT THE KIND THAT LINK WITH THE BACTERIA TO INCREASE TOXICITY.
ON THE CONTRARY -
...WHAT IS THIS?
THIS IS A LOCAL RESIDENT. WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?
SHE HAD STAGE II-B CERVICAL CANCER.
BUT LOOK NOW!
WHAT THE HELL ARE ALL THESE BACTERIA IN THE UTERUS ?!
THE BACTERIA WE DISCOVERED -


...WE NAMED "KIEVEL 1," AFTER KIEBITZENBERG.
THE VILLAGE GROUNDWATER ALREADY CONTAINED RADIOACTIVE RARE EARTH.
IT HOSTED A KIND OF CRYOPHILIC ARCHAEA THAT BROKE DOWN THE RARE EARTH CHEMICALS.
TO OUR SURPRISE, THESE ARCHAEA WERE WHAT KIEVEL 1 FED UPON.
A TYPE OF BACTERIA FOUND ONLY IN THE RESIDENTS OF KIEBITZENBERG, DUE TO THEIR GROUNDWATER.
WHEN THIS GERM INFECTED THE PHAGES OUR COMPANY WAS DESIGNING...
...IT HAD A RATHER STUNNING EFFECT...
...OF WHICH YOU ARE QUITE AWARE.
NOW WE HAVE FOUND *THREE* LOCATIONS...
...WITH WATER SOURCES THAT ARE NEARLY IDENTICAL.
KIEBITZENBERG, GERMANY.
HWAMEI DISTRICT, CHINA.
ISHIKUNAGIJIMA, JAPAN.


OUR ONLY GOAL, IN ALL TRUTH, IS TO HEAL THE SICK.
IT'S A MYSTERIOUS THING...
..ISN'T IT?
...HEH HEH!
BETWEEN A LIFE SPENT WITHOUT MURDERING OR SAVING A SINGLE PERSON...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SHIROE-KUN?
THE SUFFERING...
...WILL NOT STOP US.
BUT THE SUFFERING WE CAUSE...


...AND A LIFE SPENT KILLING 100 TO SAVE 10,000 ...
...WE WOULD ALL BE CONFLICTED... BUT EVENTUALLY CHOOSE THE LATTER.
YOU ARE JUST LIKE ME IN THAT REGARD. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US IS THE LENGTH OF OUR HESITATION.
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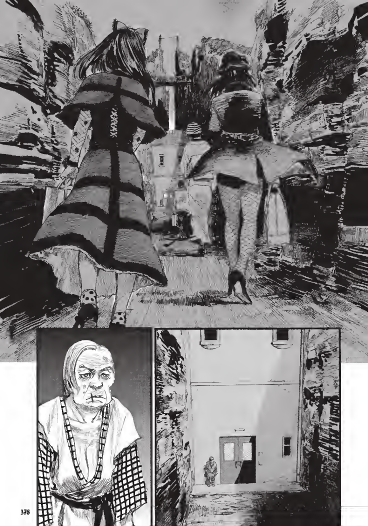
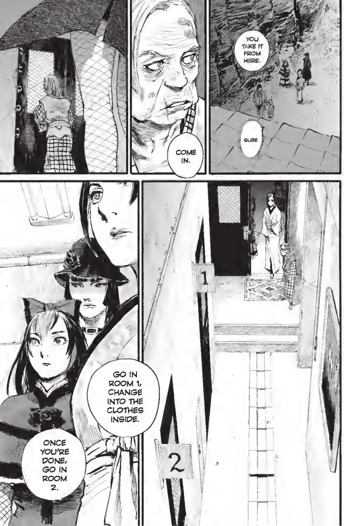
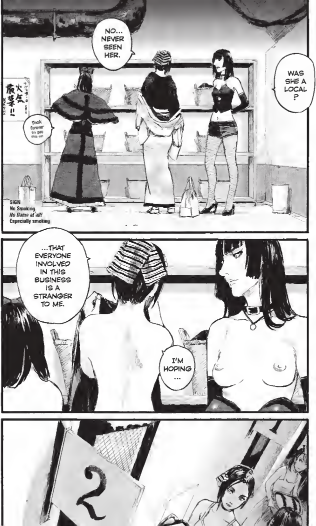
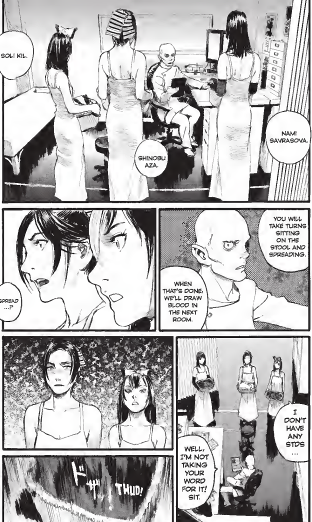
#12 - **Qiao Zhuang** (END)

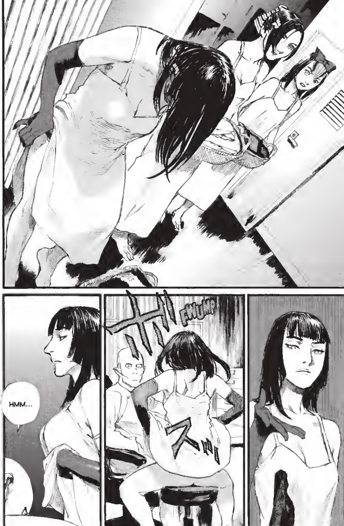
#13 - **Bordell** (Brothel)

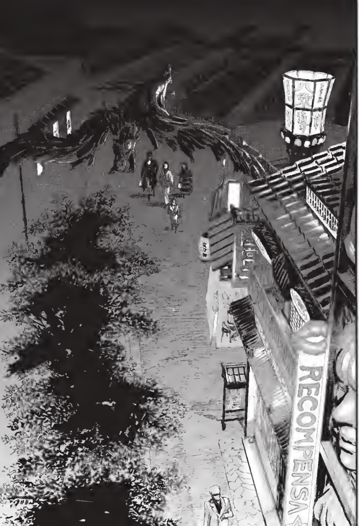


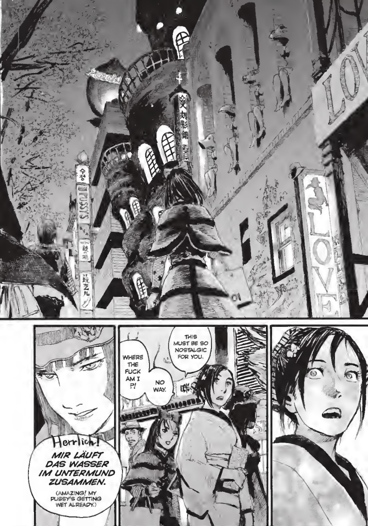

YOU TAKE IT FROM HERE.
SURE
COME IN.
1
2
GO IN ROOM 1, CHANGE INTO THE CLOTHES INSIDE.
ONCE YOU'RE DONE, GO IN ROOM 2.

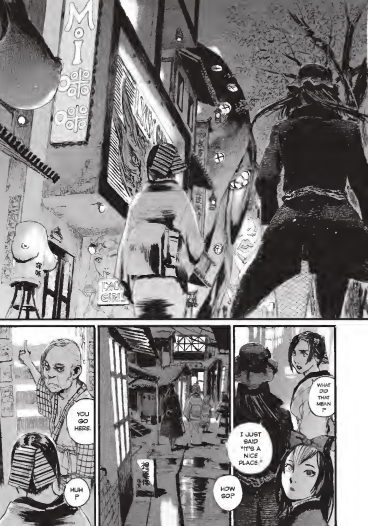

WAS SHE A LOCAL?
NO... NEVER SEEN HER.
火気厳禁!!
Took forever to get this on
SIGN
No Smoking
No flame at all!
Especially smoking
I'M HOPING...
...THAT EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THIS BUSINESS IS A STRANGER TO ME.
2

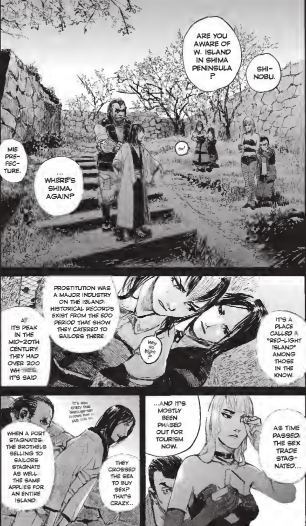

NAMI SAVRASOVA.
SHINOBU AZA.
SOLI KIL.
YOU WILL TAKE TURNS SITTING ON THE STOOL AND SPREADING.
WHEN THAT'S DONE, WE'LL DRAW BLOOD IN THE NEXT ROOM.
SPREAD ...?
I DON'T HAVE ANY STDS ...
WELL, I'M NOT TAKING YOUR WORD FOR IT! SIT.
ドッ
THUD!

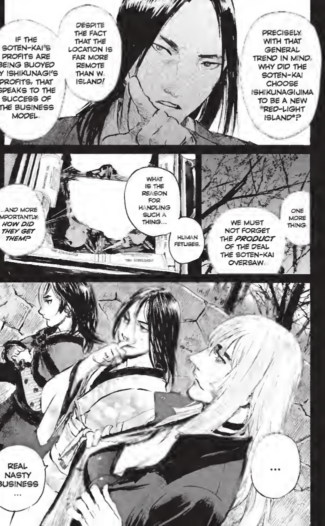

HMM...
ザ
FWUMP
スッ

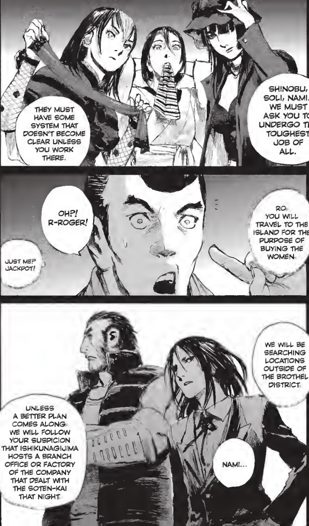

八栄通り
RECOMPENSA

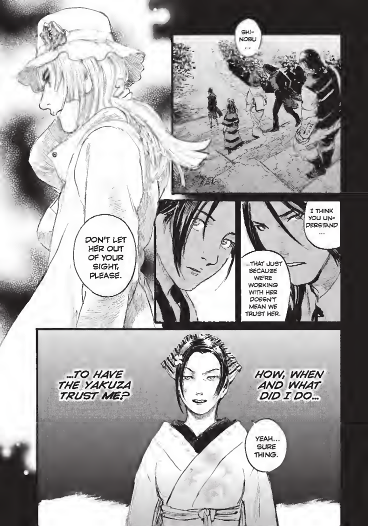

Peach
LOVE
수정
PUSSY'S
LOVE
Herrlich!
MIR LÄUFT DAS WASSER IM UNTERMUND ZUSAMMEN.
(AMAZING! MY PUSSY'S GETTING WET ALREADY.)
THIS MUST BE SO NOSTALGIC FOR YOU.
WHERE THE FUCK AM I ?!
NO WAY.

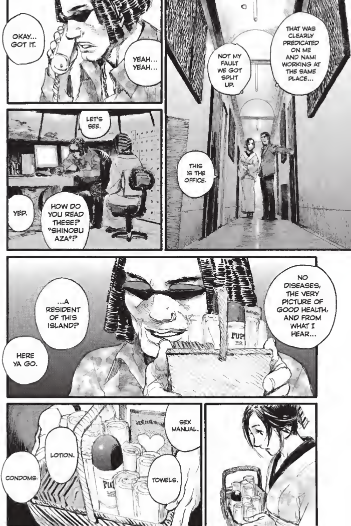

MOI
LYNX GIRLS
YOU GO HERE.
HUH?
WHAT DID THAT MEAN?
I JUST SAID "IT'S A NICE PLACE."
HOW SO?

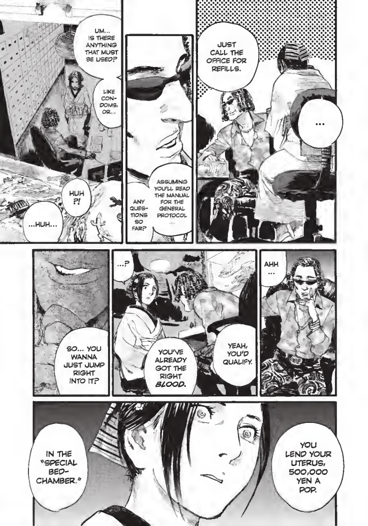

SHI-NOBU.
ARE YOU AWARE OF W. ISLAND IN SHIMA PENINSULA?
...WHERE'S SHIMA, AGAIN?
MIE PREFECTURE.
Ow!
IT'S A PLACE CALLED A "RED-LIGHT ISLAND"* AMONG THOSE IN THE KNOW.
Why so tight?
PROSTITUTION WAS A MAJOR INDUSTRY ON THE ISLAND. HISTORICAL RECORDS EXIST FROM THE EDO PERIOD THAT SHOW THEY CATERED TO SAILORS THERE.
AT ITS PEAK IN THE MID-20TH CENTURY THEY HAD OVER 200 WHORES, IT'S SAID.
AS TIME PASSED THE SEX TRADE STAGNATED...
...AND IT'S MOSTLY BEEN PHASED OUT FOR TOURISM NOW.
THEY CROSSED THE SEA TO BUY SEX? THAT'S CRAZY...
It's also crazy that Iwasuga-san knows how to put this on.
WHEN A PORT STAGNATES, THE BROTHELS SELLING TO SAILORS STAGNATE AS WELL. THE SAME APPLIES FOR AN ENTIRE ISLAND.

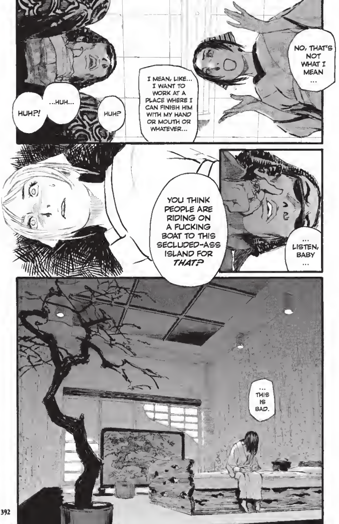

PRECISELY, WITH THAT GENERAL TREND IN MIND, WHY DID THE SOTEN-KAI CHOOSE ISHIKUNAGIJIMA TO BE A NEW "RED-LIGHT ISLAND"?
DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE LOCATION IS FAR MORE REMOTE THAN W. ISLAND!
IF THE SOTEN-KAI'S PROFITS ARE BEING BUOYED BY ISHIKUNAGI'S PROFITS, THAT SPEAKS TO THE SUCCESS OF THE BUSINESS MODEL.
ONE MORE THING.
WE MUST NOT FORGET THE *PRODUCT* OF THE DEAL THE SOTEN-KAI OVERSAW.
HUMAN FETUSES.
WHAT IS THE REASON FOR HANDLING SUCH A THING...
...AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, *HOW DID THEY GET THEM?*
...
REAL NASTY BUSINESS...

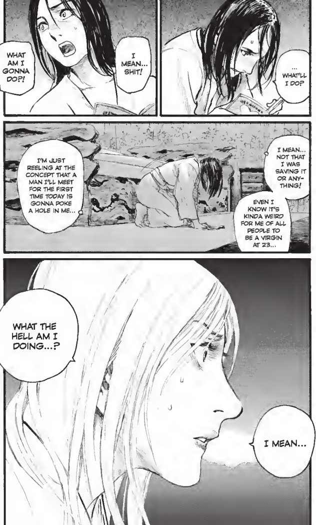

SHINOBU, SOLI, NAMI... WE MUST ASK YOU TO UNDERGO THE TOUGHEST JOB OF ALL.
THEY MUST HAVE SOME SYSTEM THAT DOESN'T BECOME CLEAR UNLESS YOU WORK THERE.
RO. YOU WILL TRAVEL TO THE ISLAND FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUYING THE WOMEN.
OH?! R-ROGER!
JUST ME? JACKPOT!
WE WILL BE SEARCHING LOCATIONS OUTSIDE OF THE BROTHEL DISTRICT.
UNLESS A BETTER PLAN COMES ALONG, WE WILL FOLLOW YOUR SUSPICION THAT ISHIKUNAGIJIMA HOSTS A BRANCH OFFICE OR FACTORY OF THE COMPANY THAT DEALT WITH THE SOTEN-KAI THAT NIGHT.
NAMI...

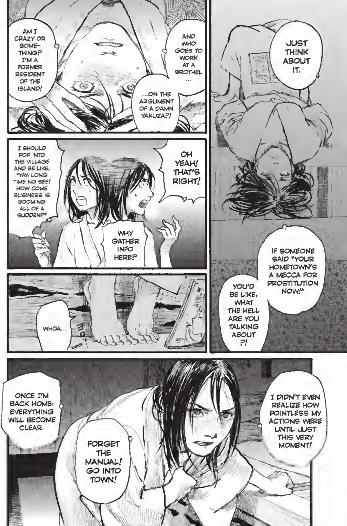

SHI-NOBU...
I THINK YOU UNDERSTAND...
...THAT JUST BECAUSE WE'RE WORKING WITH HER DOESN'T MEAN WE TRUST HER.
DON'T LET HER OUT OF YOUR SIGHT, PLEASE.
HOW, WHEN AND WHAT DID I DO...
...TO HAVE THE YAKUZA TRUST ME?
YEAH... SURE THING.

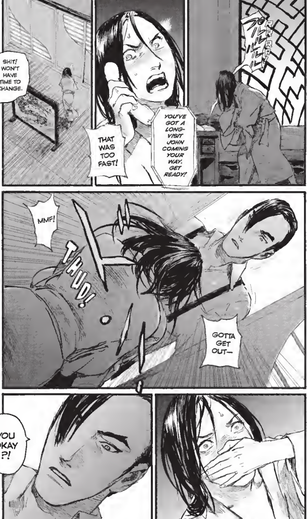

THAT WAS CLEARLY PREDICATED ON ME AND NAMI WORKING AT THE SAME PLACE...
NOT MY FAULT WE GOT SPLIT UP.
THIS IS THE OFFICE.
YEAH... YEAH...
OKAY... GOT IT.
LET'S SEE.
HOW DO YOU READ THESE? "SHINOBU AZA"?
YEP.
NO DISEASES, THE VERY PICTURE OF GOOD HEALTH, AND FROM WHAT I HEAR...
...A RESIDENT OF THIS ISLAND?
HERE YA GO.
SEX MANUAL.
TOWELS.
LOTION.
CONDOMS.

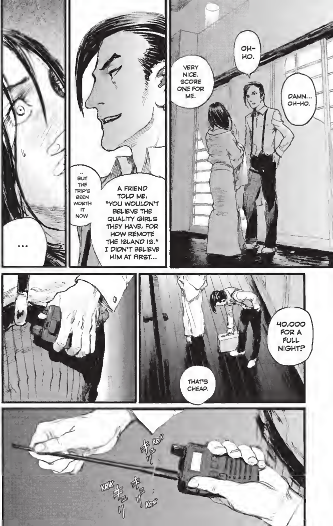

JUST CALL THE OFFICE FOR REFILLS.
...
ASSUMING YOU'LL READ THE MANUAL FOR THE GENERAL PROTOCOL
ANY QUESTIONS SO FAR?
UM... IS THERE ANYTHING THAT MUST BE USED?
LIKE CONDOMS, OR...
HUH?!
...HUH...
AHH...
YEAH, YOU'D QUALIFY.
YOU'VE ALREADY GOT THE RIGHT *BLOOD*.
...?
SO... YOU WANNA JUST JUMP RIGHT INTO IT?
YOU LEND YOUR UTERUS, 500,000 YEN A POP.
IN THE "SPECIAL BEDCHAMBER."

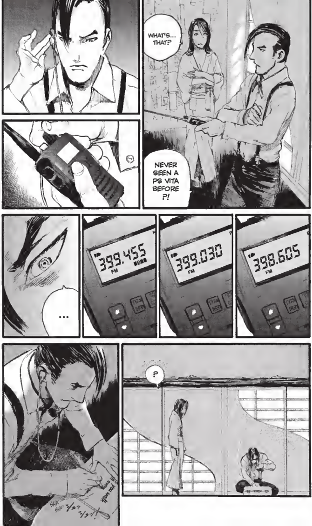

NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN ...
I MEAN, LIKE... I WANT TO WORK AT A PLACE WHERE I CAN FINISH HIM WITH MY HAND OR MOUTH OR WHATEVER...
HUH?
...HUH...
HUH?!
... LISTEN, BABY ...
YOU THINK PEOPLE ARE RIDING ON A FUCKING BOAT TO THIS SECLUDED-ASS ISLAND FOR *THAT?*
... THIS IS BAD.

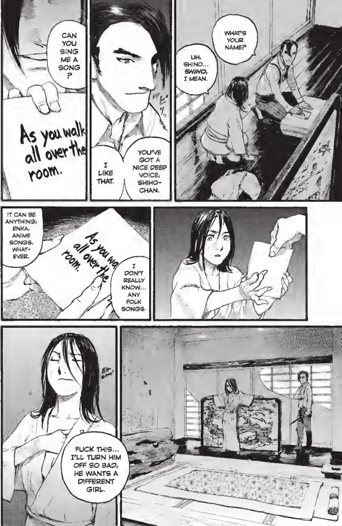

...WHAT'LL I DO?
WHAT AM I GONNA DO?!
I MEAN... SHIT!
I MEAN... NOT THAT I WAS SAVING IT OR ANYTHING!
EVEN I KNOW IT'S KINDA WEIRD FOR ME OF ALL PEOPLE TO BE A VIRGIN AT 23...
I'M JUST REELING AT THE CONCEPT THAT A MAN I'LL MEET FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY IS GONNA POKE A HOLE IN ME...
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING...?
I MEAN...

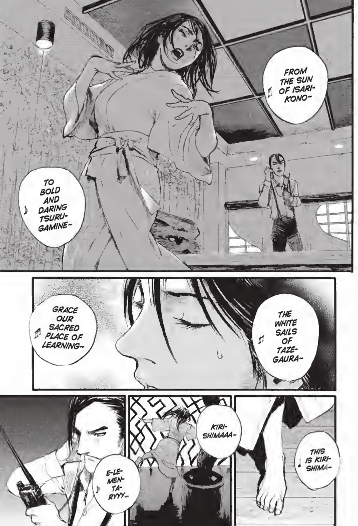

JUST THINK ABOUT IT.
IF SOMEONE SAID "YOUR HOMETOWN'S A MECCA FOR PROSTITUTION NOW!"
YOU'D BE LIKE, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
AND WHO GOES TO WORK AT A BROTHEL ...
...ON THE ARGUMENT OF A DAMN YAKUZA?!
AM I CRAZY OR SOME-THING? I'M A FORMER RESIDENT OF THE ISLAND!
OH YEAH! THAT'S RIGHT!
I SHOULD POP INTO THE VILLAGE AND BE LIKE, "YAY, LONG TIME NO SEE! HOW COME BUSINESS IS BOOMING ALL OF A SUDDEN?"
WHY GATHER INFO HERE?
WHOA...
LURCH
I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE HOW POINTLESS MY ACTIONS WERE UNTIL JUST THIS VERY MOMENT!
FORGET THE MANUAL! GO INTO TOWN!
ONCE I'M BACK HOME EVERYTHING WILL BECOME CLEAR

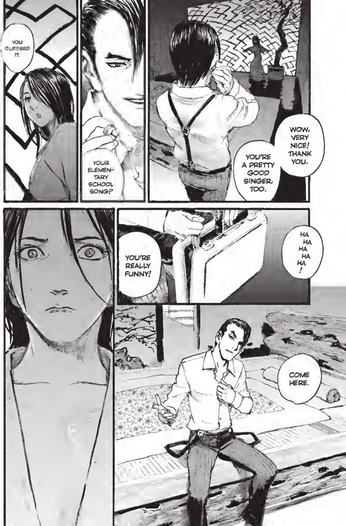

プルルルル
RRRR!
YOU'VE GOT A LONG-VISIT JOHN COMING YOUR WAY. GET READY!
THAT WAS TOO FAST!
SHIT! WON'T HAVE TIME TO CHANGE.
GOTTA GET OUT—
THUD!
MMF!
YOU OKAY ?!

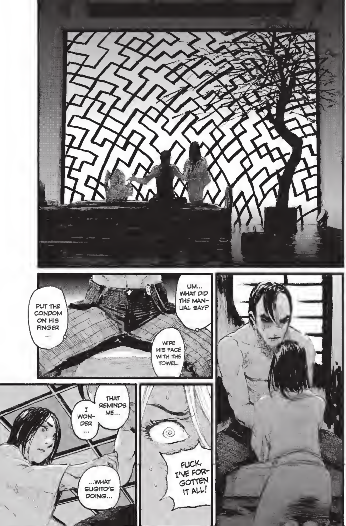

OH-HO.
VERY NICE. SCORE ONE FOR ME.
DAMN... OH-HO.
A FRIEND TOLD ME, "YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE QUALITY GIRLS THEY HAVE, FOR HOW REMOTE THE ISLAND IS." I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM AT FIRST...
...BUT THE TRIP'S BEEN WORTH IT NOW
...
40,000 FOR A FULL NIGHT?
THAT'S CHEAP.
KRIK
KRIK
KRIK

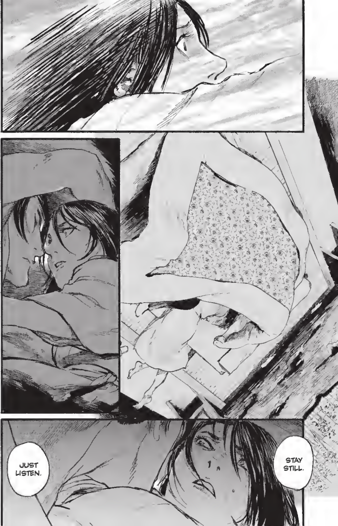

WHAT'S... THAT?
NEVER SEEN A PS VITA BEFORE ?!
398.605
FM
399.030
FM
399.455
FM
...
?
SHK SHK!
シュッ シュッ!
you walk in every

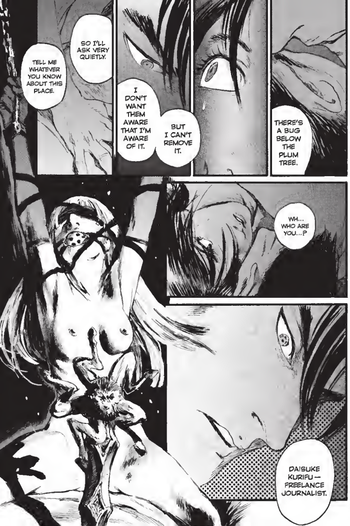

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
UH, SHINO... *SHIHO*, I MEAN.
RIP ビ゜リッ
YOU'VE GOT A NICE DEEP VOICE, SHIHO-CHAN.
I LIKE THAT.
CAN YOU SING ME A SONG?
As you walk all over the room.
IT CAN BE ANYTHING; ENKA, ANIME SONGS, WHATEVER.
As you walk all over the room.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW... ANY FOLK SONGS.
Eh-ahm!
FUCK THIS... I'LL TURN HIM OFF SO BAD, HE WANTS A DIFFERENT GIRL.

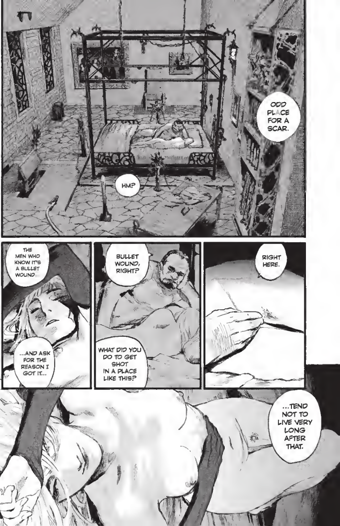

♪ FROM THE SUN OF ISARIKONO~
♪ TO BOLD AND DARING TSURUGAMINE~
♪ THE WHITE SAILS OF TAZEGAURA~
♪ GRACE OUR SACRED PLACE OF LEARNING~
♪ THIS IS KIRISHIMA~
KIRISHIMAAA-
♪ E-LEMENTARYYY..

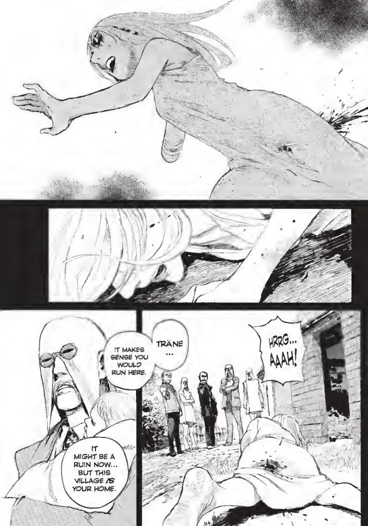

WOW, VERY NICE! THANK YOU.
YOU'RE A PRETTY GOOD SINGER, TOO.
YOUR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SONG?
YOU GUESSED IT.
HA HA HA HA HA!
YOU'RE REALLY FUNNY!
COME HERE.

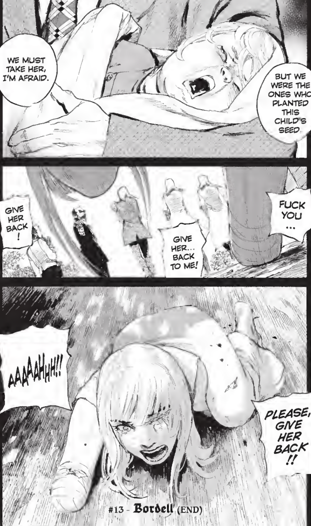

UM... WHAT DID THE MANUAL SAY?
WIPE HIS FACE WITH THE TOWEL.
PUT THE CONDOM ON HIS FINGER...
FUCK, I'VE FORGOTTEN IT ALL!
THAT REMINDS ME...
I WONDER...
...WHAT SUGITO'S DOING...


STAY STILL.
JUST LISTEN.


THERE'S A BUG BELOW THE PLUM TREE.
BUT I CAN'T REMOVE IT.
I DON'T WANT THEM AWARE THAT I'M AWARE OF IT.
SO I'LL ASK VERY QUIETLY.
TELL ME WHATEVER YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE.
WH... WHO ARE YOU...?
DAISUKE KURIFU— FREELANCE JOURNALIST.


ODD PLACE FOR A SCAR.
HMP?
RIGHT HERE.
BULLET WOUND, RIGHT?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO GET SHOT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
THE MEN WHO KNOW IT'S A BULLET WOUND...
...AND ASK FOR THE REASON I GOT IT...
...TEND NOT TO LIVE VERY LONG AFTER THAT.


HRRG... AAAH!
TRÄNE ...
IT MAKES SENSE YOU WOULD RUN HERE.
IT MIGHT BE A RUIN NOW... BUT THIS VILLAGE *IS* YOUR HOME.

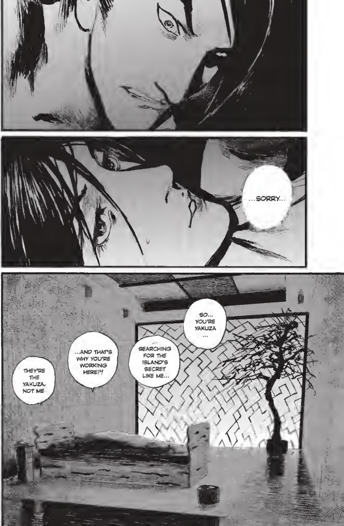

BUT WE WERE THE ONES WHO PLANTED THIS CHILD'S SEED.
WE MUST TAKE HER, I'M AFRAID.
FUCK YOU ...
GIVE HER... BACK TO ME!
GIVE HER BACK !
PLEASE, GIVE HER BACK !!
AAAAAHHH!!

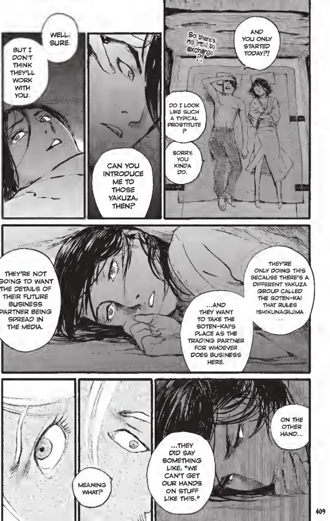
#13 - **Bordell** (END)

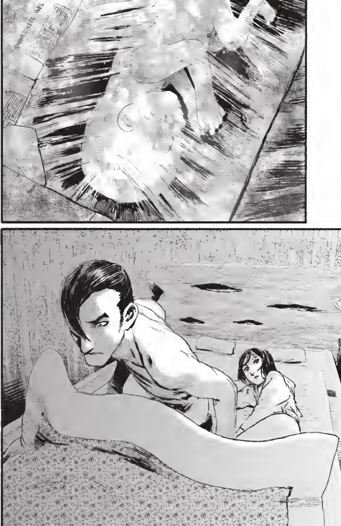
#14

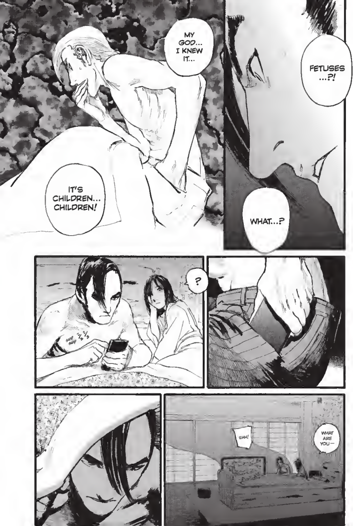
Ko to Oya

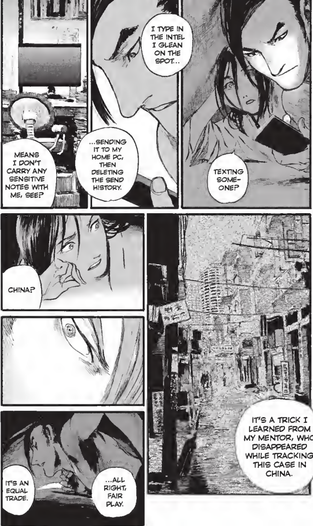
(Mother and Child)

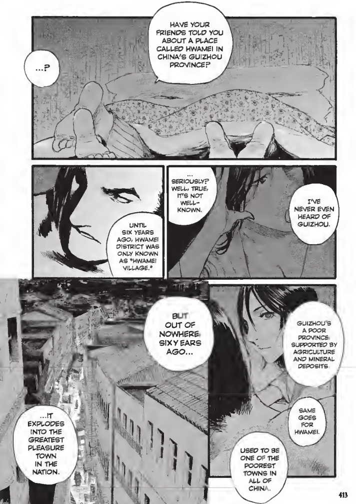

...SORRY...
SO... YOU'RE YAKUZA ...
SEARCHING FOR THE ISLAND'S SECRET LIKE ME...
...AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE WORKING HERE?!
THEY'RE THE YAKUZA, NOT ME

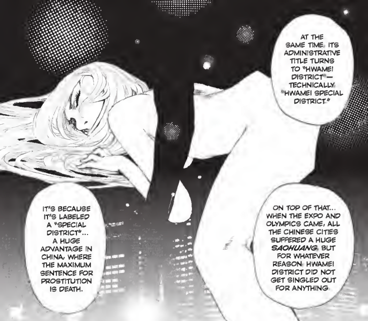

So there's no intel to exchange?!
AND YOU ONLY STARTED TODAY?!
DO I LOOK LIKE SUCH A TYPICAL PROSTITUTE?
SORRY, YOU KINDA DO.
CAN YOU INTRODUCE ME TO THOSE YAKUZA, THEN?
WELL, SURE.
BUT I DON'T THINK THEY'LL WORK WITH YOU.
THEY'RE ONLY DOING THIS BECAUSE THERE'S A DIFFERENT YAKUZA GROUP CALLED THE SOTEN-KAI THAT RULES ISHIKUNAGIJIMA...
...AND THEY WANT TO TAKE THE SOTEN-KAI'S PLACE AS THE TRADING PARTNER FOR WHOEVER DOES BUSINESS HERE.
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO WANT THE DETAILS OF THEIR FUTURE BUSINESS PARTNER BEING SPREAD IN THE MEDIA.
ON THE OTHER HAND...
...THEY DID SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "WE CAN'T GET OUR HANDS ON STUFF LIKE THIS."
MEANING WHAT?


STONEHENGE GEL

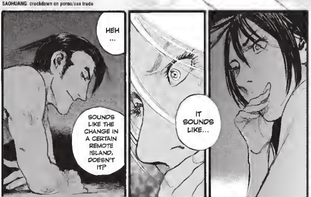

FETUSES ...?!
WHAT...?
MY GOD... I KNEW IT...
IT'S CHILDREN... CHILDREN!
?
WHAT ARE YOU—
SHH!

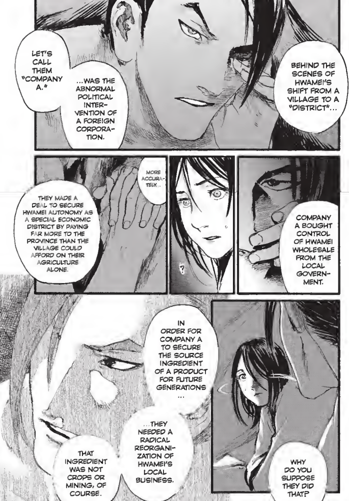

TEXTING SOME-ONE?
I TYPE IN THE INTEL I GLEAN ON THE SPOT...
...SENDING IT TO MY HOME PC, THEN DELETING THE SEND HISTORY.
MEANS I DON'T CARRY ANY SENSITIVE NOTES WITH ME, SEE?
IT'S A TRICK I LEARNED FROM MY MENTOR, WHO DISAPPEARED WHILE TRACKING THIS CASE IN CHINA.
CHINA?
...ALL RIGHT, FAIR PLAY.
IT'S AN EQUAL TRADE.

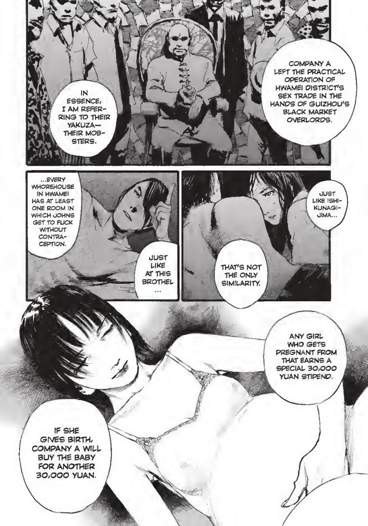

HAVE YOUR FRIENDS TOLD YOU ABOUT A PLACE CALLED HWAMEI IN CHINA'S GUIZHOU PROVINCE?
...?
I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF GUIZHOU.
... SERIOUSLY? WELL, TRUE, IT'S NOT WELL-KNOWN.
UNTIL SIX YEARS AGO, HWAMEI DISTRICT WAS ONLY KNOWN AS "HWAMEI VILLAGE."
GUIZHOU'S A POOR PROVINCE, SUPPORTED BY AGRICULTURE AND MINERAL DEPOSITS.
SAME GOES FOR HWAMEI.
USED TO BE ONE OF THE POOREST TOWNS IN ALL OF CHINA.
BUT OUT OF NOWHERE SIXY EARS AGO...
...IT EXPLODES INTO THE GREATEST PLEASURE TOWN IN THE NATION.

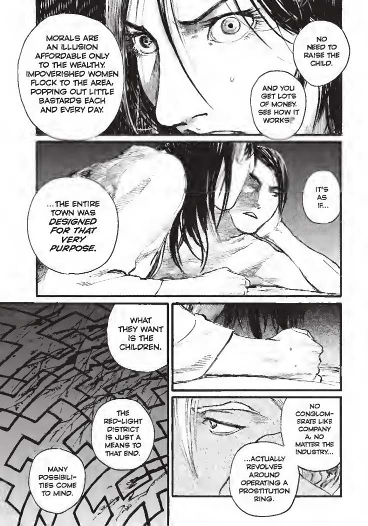

AT THE SAME TIME, ITS ADMINISTRATIVE TITLE TURNS TO "HWAMEI DISTRICT"—TECHNICALLY, "HWAMEI SPECIAL DISTRICT."
IT'S BECAUSE IT'S LABELED A "SPECIAL DISTRICT"... A HUGE ADVANTAGE IN CHINA, WHERE THE MAXIMUM SENTENCE FOR PROSTITUTION IS DEATH.
ON TOP OF THAT... WHEN THE EXPO AND OLYMPICS CAME, ALL THE CHINESE CITIES SUFFERED A HUGE *SAOHUANG*, BUT FOR WHATEVER REASON, HWAMEI DISTRICT DID NOT GET SINGLED OUT FOR ANYTHING.

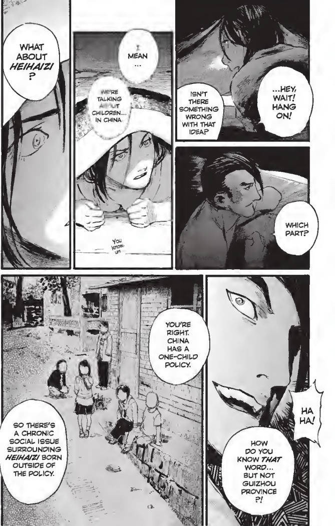
SAOHUANG: crackdown on porno/sex trade


HEH ...
SOUNDS LIKE THE CHANGE IN A CERTAIN REMOTE ISLAND, DOESN'T IT?
IT SOUNDS LIKE...

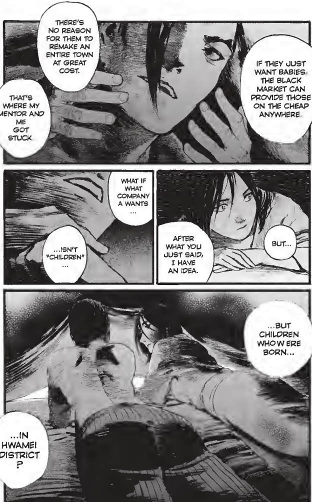

BEHIND THE SCENES OF HWAMEI'S SHIFT FROM A VILLAGE TO A "DISTRICT"...
...WAS THE ABNORMAL POLITICAL INTERVENTION OF A FOREIGN CORPORATION.
LET'S CALL THEM "COMPANY A."
COMPANY A BOUGHT CONTROL OF HWAMEI WHOLESALE FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT.
?
MORE ACCURATELY...
THEY MADE A DEAL TO SECURE HWAMEI AUTONOMY AS A SPECIAL ECONOMIC DISTRICT BY PAYING FAR MORE TO THE PROVINCE THAN THE VILLAGE COULD AFFORD ON THEIR AGRICULTURE ALONE.
WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE THEY DID THAT?
IN ORDER FOR COMPANY A TO SECURE THE SOURCE INGREDIENT OF A PRODUCT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS ...
...THEY NEEDED A RADICAL REORGANIZATION OF HWAMEI'S LOCAL BUSINESS.
THAT INGREDIENT WAS NOT CROPS OR MINING, OF COURSE.

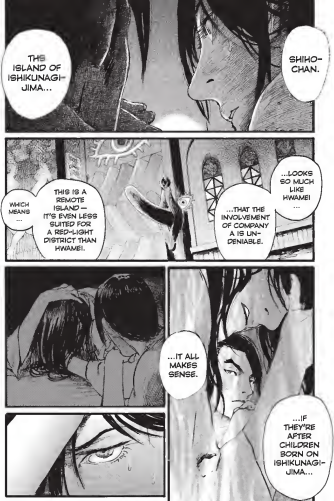

COMPANY A LEFT THE PRACTICAL OPERATION OF HWAMEI DISTRICT'S SEX TRADE IN THE HANDS OF GUIZHOU'S BLACK MARKET OVERLORDS.
IN ESSENCE, I AM REFERRING TO THEIR YAKUZA—THEIR MOBSTERS.
JUST LIKE ISHIKUNAGIJIMA...
THAT'S NOT THE ONLY SIMILARITY.
...EVERY WHOREHOUSE IN HWAMEI HAS AT LEAST ONE ROOM IN WHICH JOHNS GET TO FUCK WITHOUT CONTRACEPTION.
JUST LIKE AT THIS BROTHEL ...
ANY GIRL WHO GETS PREGNANT FROM THAT EARNS A SPECIAL 30,000 YUAN STIPEND.
IF SHE GIVES BIRTH, COMPANY A WILL BUY THE BABY FOR ANOTHER 30,000 YUAN.

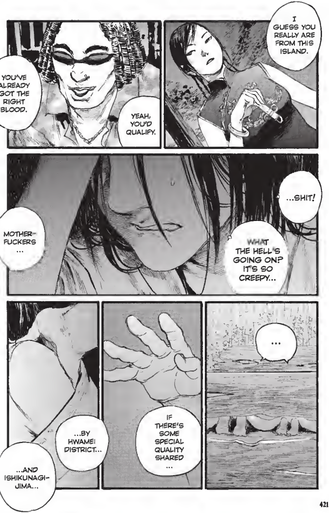

NO NEED TO RAISE THE CHILD.
AND YOU GET LOTS OF MONEY. SEE HOW IT WORKS?
MORALS ARE AN ILLUSION AFFORDABLE ONLY TO THE WEALTHY. IMPOVERISHED WOMEN FLOCK TO THE AREA, POPPING OUT LITTLE BASTARDS EACH AND EVERY DAY.
IT'S AS IF...
...THE ENTIRE TOWN WAS *DESIGNED FOR THAT VERY PURPOSE.*
NO CONGLOMERATE LIKE COMPANY A, NO MATTER THE INDUSTRY...
...ACTUALLY REVOLVES AROUND OPERATING A PROSTITUTION RING.
WHAT THEY WANT IS THE CHILDREN.
THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT IS JUST A MEANS TO THAT END.
MANY POSSIBILITIES COME TO MIND.

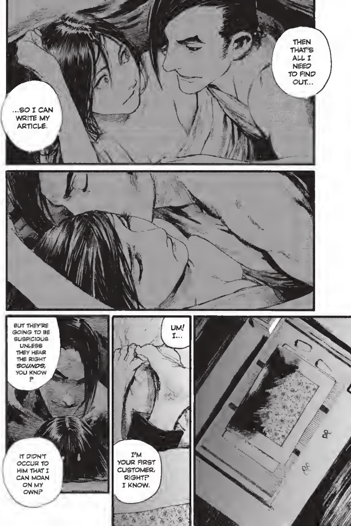

...HEY, WAIT! HANG ON!
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THAT IDEA?
I MEAN ...
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT CHILDREN... IN CHINA
You know, um
WHICH PART?
WHAT ABOUT *HEIHAIZI* ?
HA HA!
HOW DO YOU KNOW *THAT* WORD... BUT NOT GUIZHOU PROVINCE ?!
YOU'RE RIGHT. CHINA HAS A ONE-CHILD POLICY.
SO THERE'S A CHRONIC SOCIAL ISSUE SURROUNDING *HEIHAIZI* BORN OUTSIDE OF THE POLICY.

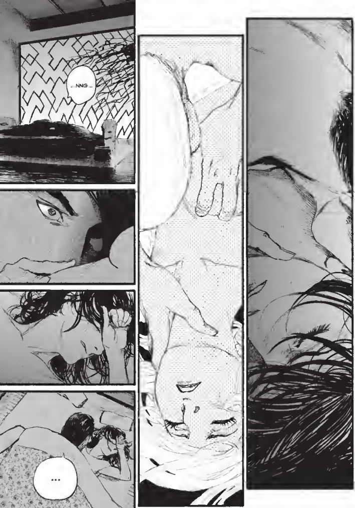
HEIHAIZI: "black child," unregistered children

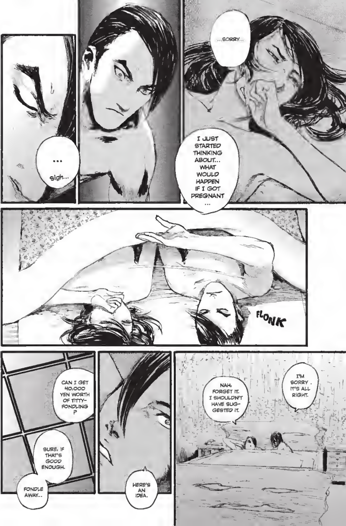

IF THEY JUST WANT BABIES, THE BLACK MARKET CAN PROVIDE THOSE ON THE CHEAP ANYWHERE.
THERE'S NO REASON FOR THEM TO REMAKE AN ENTIRE TOWN AT GREAT COST.
THAT'S WHERE MY MENTOR AND ME GOT STUCK.
BUT...
AFTER WHAT YOU JUST SAID, I HAVE AN IDEA.
WHAT IF WHAT COMPANY A WANTS...
...ISN'T "CHILDREN"...
...BUT CHILDREN WHO WERE BORN...
...IN HWAMEI DISTRICT?

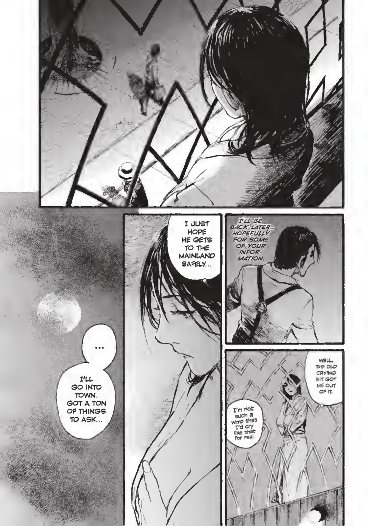

SHIHO-CHAN.
THE ISLAND OF ISHIKUNAGI-JIMA...
...LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE HWAMEI ...
THIS IS A REMOTE ISLAND—IT'S EVEN LESS SUITED FOR A RED-LIGHT DISTRICT THAN HWAMEI.
WHICH MEANS ...
...THAT THE INVOLVEMENT OF COMPANY A IS UNDENIABLE.
...IT ALL MAKES SENSE.
...IF THEY'RE AFTER CHILDREN BORN ON ISHIKUNAGI-JIMA...

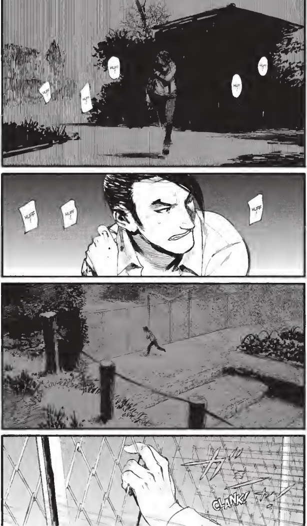

I GUESS YOU REALLY ARE FROM THIS ISLAND.
YEAH, YOU'D QUALIFY.
YOU'VE ALREADY GOT THE RIGHT BLOOD.
...SHIT!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON? IT'S SO CREEPY...
MOTHER-FUCKERS ...
...
IF THERE'S SOME SPECIAL QUALITY SHARED ...
...BY HWAMEI DISTRICT...
...AND ISHIKUNAGI-JIMA...

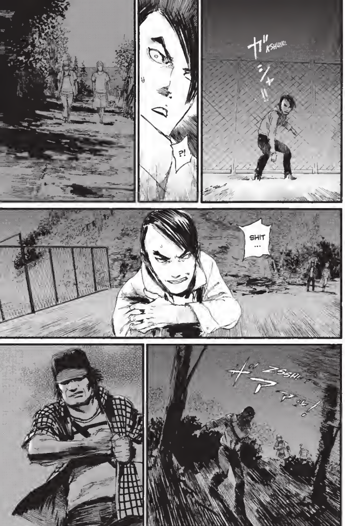

THEN THAT'S ALL I NEED TO FIND OUT...
...SO I CAN WRITE MY ARTICLE.
UM! I...
I'M YOUR FIRST CUSTOMER, RIGHT? I KNOW.
BUT THEY'RE GOING TO BE SUSPICIOUS UNLESS THEY HEAR THE RIGHT *SOUNDS,* YOU KNOW?
IT DIDN'T OCCUR TO HIM THAT I CAN MOAN ON MY OWN?

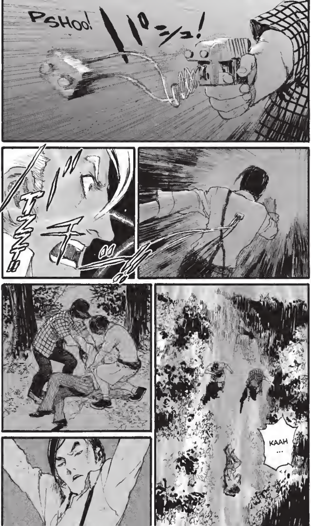

...NNG...
...

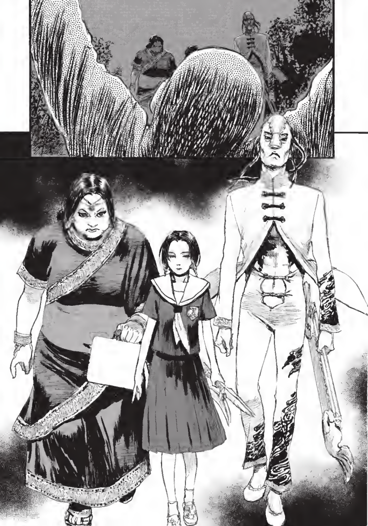

...SORRY...
I JUST STARTED THINKING ABOUT... WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF I GOT PREGNANT ...
... sigh...
FLONK
I'M SORRY. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
NAH, FORGET IT. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SUGGESTED IT.
HERE'S AN IDEA.
CAN I GET 40,000 YEN WORTH OF TITTY-FONDLING ?
SURE, IF THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH.
FONDLE AWAY...

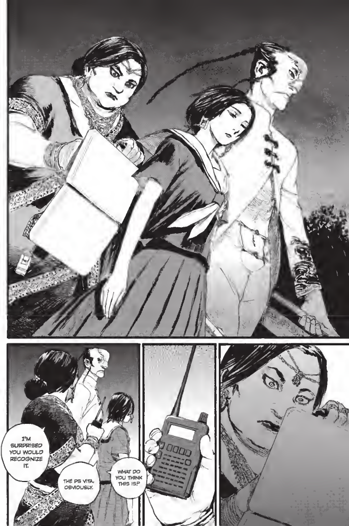

I'LL BE BACK LATER... HOPEFULLY FOR SOME OF YOUR INFORMATION.
I JUST HOPE HE GETS TO THE MAINLAND SAFELY...
WELL, THE OLD CRYING BIT GOT ME OUT OF IT.
I'm not such a wimp that I'd cry like that for real
...
I'LL GO INTO TOWN. GOT A TON OF THINGS TO ASK...

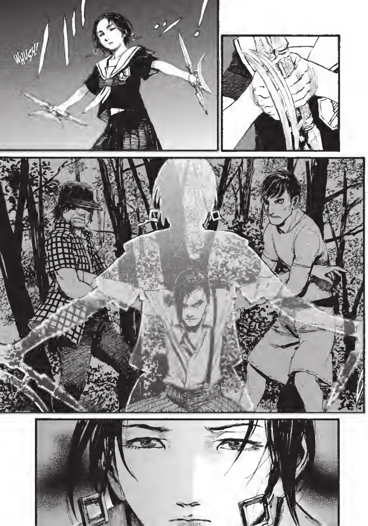

HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
CLANK!

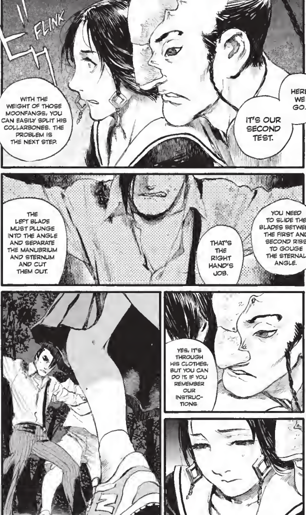

ガシャ!!
KSHUNK!!
?!
SHIT ...
ザァァッ!
ZSSHH

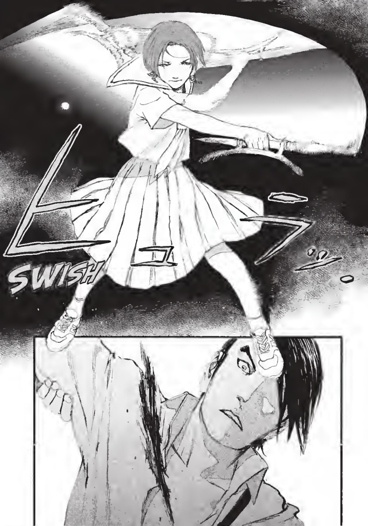

パシュ!
PSHOO!
バチッ!!
TZZZT!!
KAAH
...

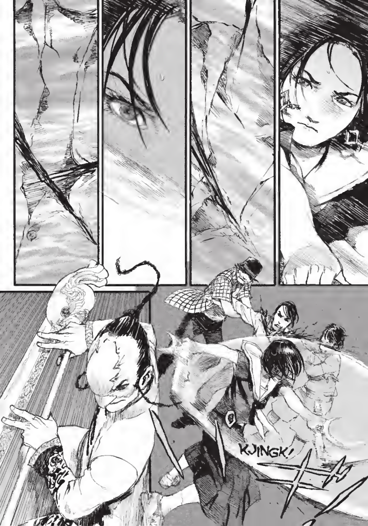


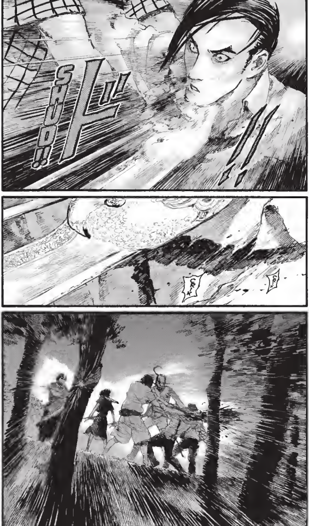

WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS?
THE PS VITA, OBVIOUSLY.
I'M SURPRISED YOU WOULD RECOGNIZE IT.

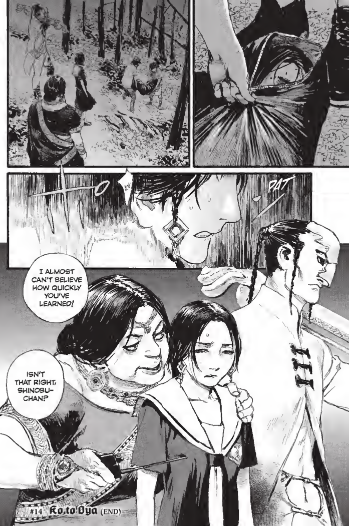

WHUSH!


FLINK
HERE WE GO.
IT'S OUR SECOND TEST.
WITH THE WEIGHT OF THOSE MOONFANGS, YOU CAN EASILY SPLIT HIS COLLARBONES. THE PROBLEM IS THE NEXT STEP.
YOU NEED TO SLIDE THE BLADES BETWEEN THE FIRST AND SECOND RIBS TO GOUGE THE STERNAL ANGLE.
THAT'S THE RIGHT HAND'S JOB.
THE LEFT BLADE MUST PLUNGE INTO THE ANGLE AND SEPARATE THE MANUBRIUM AND STERNUM AND CUT THEM OUT.
YES, IT'S THROUGH HIS CLOTHES, BUT YOU CAN DO IT, IF YOU REMEMBER OUR INSTRUCTIONS.


ヒュラッ
SWISH


KJINGK!


ドッ
SHUDD!!
CRK
CRK


PAT
I ALMOST CAN'T BELIEVE HOW QUICKLY YOU'VE LEARNED!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, SHINOBU-CHAN?

#14 **Ko to Oya** (END)

Die Wergelder

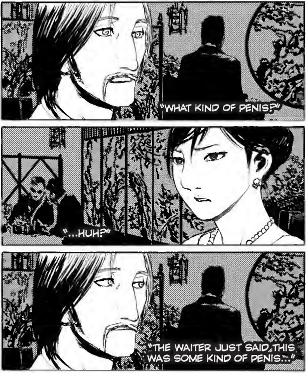
2

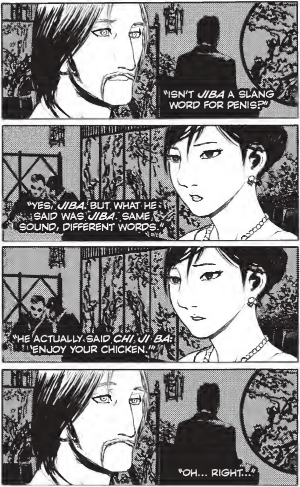
Das Ende

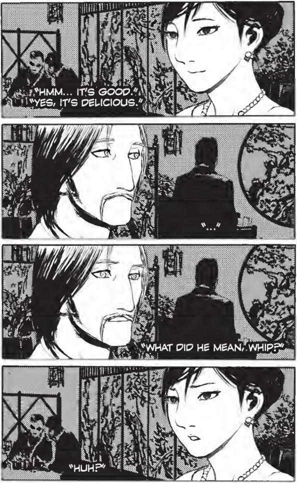
To be continued.

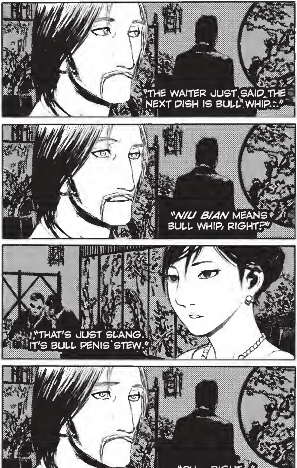
BONUS MANGA

Shindo and Jie Mao's FEAST


"WHAT KIND OF PENIS?"
"...HUH?"
"THE WAITER JUST SAID THIS WAS SOME KIND OF PENIS..."


"ISN'T JIBA A SLANG WORD FOR PENIS?"
"YES, JIBA. BUT WHAT HE SAID WAS JIBA. SAME SOUND, DIFFERENT WORDS."
"HE ACTUALLY SAID CHI JI BA: 'ENJOY YOUR CHICKEN.'"
"OH... RIGHT..."


"HMM... IT'S GOOD."
"YES, IT'S DELICIOUS."
"..."
"WHAT DID HE MEAN, WHIP?"
"HUH?"


"THE WAITER JUST SAID THE NEXT DISH IS BULL WHIP..."
"*NIU BIAN* MEANS BULL WHIP, RIGHT?"
"THAT'S JUST SLANG. IT'S BULL PENIS STEW."
"OH... RIGHT..."

END

AFTERWORD 後記 Nachwort

HIROAKI SAMURA

It feels like this manga had already begun when my editor[1] for *Blade of the Immortal*[2] said, "I'm surprised you've never drawn an action manga with a character in a China dress[3] before," and I found it odd that he was right. About ten years ago, we shared drinks and laughed about how to go about it, deciding that if it were to be done, we'd need to give it a 1970s Toei style[4], with a black-clad character on a quest for vengeance like *Female Convict Scorpion*[5], and maybe a *sukeban*[6] character thrown in there for good measure. On a lark, I whipped up a teaser illustration[7], which can be seen in Figure A[8]. Some of you might recognize this. After that, my editor was moved to the *Sirius*[9] editorial office, and called me out of the blue to say, "We're going to start a new magazine[10], so I need you to draw that thing we talked about right away." My only response was, "Huh? Wait... what...?"

And that was the start of *Die Wergelder*, the manga with the 2010s *chu-ni* style[11] to it. Since the whole idea came about from a couple drunks chatting about the Pinky Violence[12] movies, and you've now read the first volume, I think you can safely see that this is shaping up to be a manga without any dignity. When I write it that way, it sounds like I've actually drawn a manga that isn't utterly vulgar before. I'm sure there's at least one. Let me try to remember...

On a different subject, my editor said, "*Nemesis*[13] is a magazine with very little publicity[14], so please do some stealth marketing[15] in the afterword." Unrelated to any stealth marketing, it made me very happy to do work[16] with Kotaro Ohkoshi[17], of whom I've always been a big fan (see Figure B[18] and Figure C[19]). Wow, all of this afterword writing has gotten me hungry. Maybe I'll have some soba[20] for lunch. Or perhaps a juicy issue of *Nemesis*... (That was the stealth marketing)

FOOTNOTES 脚註 Fußnoten

1 - **EDITOR:** Mr. Samura's manga editor for *Afternoon* at the time. His primary duties were transporting the finished chapter to the office and rocking Mr. Samura awake when he was in danger of falling asleep on the job.

2 - **BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL.** Mr. Samura's signature and longest work, of which we are all familiar. It began in the pages of *Afternoon* starting in December 1993, and is styled a "neo samurai epic." All 30 volumes are out now.

3 - **CHINA DRESS.** A traditional outfit for Chinese women, known as a qipao. Based on the outfits worn by Manchu nobles during the Qing dynasty. They are beloved for their exotic sexiness, which means that naturally, Mr. Samura loves them.

4 - **1970s TOEI STYLE.** Referring to the general style of 1970s films produced by Toei, one of the biggest and most recognizable movie studios in Japan. The *eroguro* movement of the 1960s led to the 1970s porno movement (such as the *Big Girl* series) and the realistic yakuza movement (such as the *Battles Without Honor and Humanity* series).

5 - **FEMALE CONVICT SCORPION.** A movie series created by Toei, based on the gekiga series *Sasori* by Toru Shinohara. The look of Meiko Kaji, who played the original Scorpion ('72-'73), is basically Mr. Samura's favorite thing.

6 - **SUKEBAN:** A slang word meaning strictly, "girl boss," but in more general usage, "delinquent girl." Reiko Ike and Miki Sugimoto basically defined the image through the *Terrifying Girls' High School* and *Girl Boss* film series made in the early 1970s. Mr. Samura loves them as well!

7 - **TEASER ILLUSTRATION.** The temporary title "China Cat Dress Girl" came from the title of a song on the Burlesque Engine album *Cool Wild*, which Mr. Samura often listened to at the time. The man in the background (who was planned to be a British mod) may or may not appear in *Die Wergelder*.

8 - **FIGURE A:** This came from an article in the September 2003 issue of *Monthly Afternoon*. It was also printed in the 20th volume of *Blade of the Immortal*. The extremely sarcastic and unpopular text in the article was an homage to the scandal articles in a certain sadistic(?) magazine that Mr. Samura was sent at the time.

9 - **SIRIUS:** *Shonen Sirius*, a monthly shonen fantasy magazine published by Kodansha on the 26th of every month. Its signature series are *Princess Resurrection* and *Yozakura Quartet*. Please be aware that *Wergelder* is not a *Shonen Sirius* title!

10 - **NEW MAGAZINE:** The *Shonen Sirius* offshoot magazine, *Nemesis*. See footnote 13.

11 - **CHU-NI STYLE:** Settings, dialogue and characters thought to appeal with those possessing a *chunibyo* mindset (embarrassing "second year middle-schooler syndrome"). For Mr. Samura's view on the "chu-ni" phenomenon, please read the "Shizuru Cinema" story in his short story collection, *Sister Generator*.

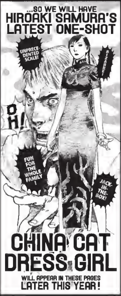


FIGURE A

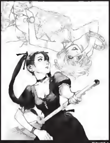


FIGURE B

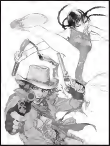


FIGURE C

17 - **KOTARO OHKOSHI**: A mangaka. His major works are *Tsuki Kuu Mushi* and *Ryoki Keiji Marusa*. His graceful, beautiful and eerie artwork is influenced by Suehiro Maruo and Katsuhiro Otomo, and despite his low profile, he has a fanatical following. He and Mr. Samura collaborated on an album cover for the Japanese heavy metal band Ningen Isu. He recently started a Western called *Zhora* in the pages of *Nemesis*, the first chapter of which appeared in Issue 10. He is currently working hard on the second chapter.

18 - **FIGURE B**: Collaboration No. 1, given out as a prize after Issue 4 to celebrate the [Samura x Ohkoshi] interview. It's a combination of original characters created for the image. It was a very crazy idea to just give away the original artwork.

19 - **FIGURE C**: Collaboration No. 2, given out as a prize after Issue 5 to celebrate the [Samura x Ohkoshi] Interview. It features main characters of both artists' new series—Jie Mao of *Die Wergelder* and Zhora Bastian of *Zhora*.

20 - **SOBA**: One of the principal types of Japanese noodles, and a veritable staple of Japanese cuisine. It is made of processed buckwheat. It is healthy and easily portable for delivery, and such a common part of Japanese life that one of the classic hobbies of the nation's fathers is "making soba." Needless to say, it is one of Mr. Samura's favorites.

12 - **PINKY VIOLENCE.** The term for the entertainment-minded feature films based around eroticism and action produced by Toei in the '60s and '70s. The term is thought to have spread from J-taro Sugisaku and Takeshi Uechi's *Toei Pinky Violence Roman Album* book. Signature examples of this style are the *Girl Boss* and *Female Convict Scorpion* series, as well as the works of Teruo Ishii.

13 - **NEMESIS.** A seasonal magazine initiated in 2010 as an offshoot of *Shonen Sirius*, published in January, April, July and October. The collected volumes are printed in the *Sirius Comics* line, but none of them can be described as "shonen." Both Samura and Kotaro Ohkoshi recommend the series *Kyoaku Gakuen*, and offered their own pull quotes for the first volume.

14 - **PUBLICITY**: *Nemesis* does not undertake any advertising of its own. Its biggest publicity is an ad that runs in *Sirius* every month. Though it is quarterly, we hope that you will enjoy Mr. Samura's hard work as a serial story through the magazine. Also, every issue has a giveaway of signed original art replicas. Between you and me, I hear it's very easy to win them...

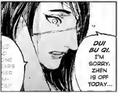
15 - **STEALTH MARKETING**: Advertising a product such that a consumer buys it without realizing they've been conditioned to do so. Therefore, this entire afterword has completely failed to qualify as stealth marketing.

16 - **WORK**: It wasn't until Issue 10 of *Nemesis* that Mr. Samura and Mr. Ohkoshi were in the same issue together. However, earlier they appeared in a special interview spanning Issues 4 and 5 (moderated by the writer Shohei Ohnishi). It's a rare interview not printed anywhere else, and the issues are still available to buy. In the interview, Mr. Samura claimed that *Wergelder* would end in two volumes, but based on how this one ended, that seems impossible.

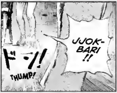
DIE WERGELDER

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.


DUI BU QI. I'M SORRY, ZHEN IS OFF TODAY...

DUI BU QI (page 10)
In Mandarin Chinese, the phrase for "I'm sorry."


JJOK-BARI !!
ドッ!!
THUMP!

JJOKBARI (page 57)
A common Korean slur against ethnic Japanese.

AND KURAHIKO SHINDO, THE SOTEN-KAI'S REPRESENTATIVE, ONCE SHARED HIS *SAKAZUKI* VOWS WITH OUR GROUP.

SAKAZUKI (page 99)

A sacred yakuza ritual involving the sharing of *sake* from the same cup between the newly-christened members of the gang and the boss, the *oyabun* or *oyaji*, meaning father. The ritual is named after the type of cup used, and signifies the full acceptance of a member to the family.

FAMOUS LOCAL DELICACY, KINOKO NO SATO, IZUMO SOBA FLAVOR.
BOUGHT IT FROM TOKYO STATION

IZUMO SOBA (page 269)

A variety of soba noodles from the Izumo region of western Japan. Unlike the Shinshu soba of eastern Japan in which the buckwheat nuts are husked first before being made into noodles, the Izumo style leaves the husks on, which results in a noodle of a browner color.

I'LL HAVE THE COLOR ASSORTMENT BENTO, THE EDO-STYLE BEACH CONGER OVER RICE, THE TWICE-COOKED SCULPIN AND EEL TRAY AND THE GOLDEN MOCHI BENTO, PLEASE.

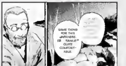
BENTO (page 286)

A type of Japanese assorted meal in a box with many compartments for the different pieces of food. The bento is often referred to as a "lunch box" because it is sold cheaply at convenience stores and train stations everywhere for a midday meal, though the traditional form has a special lacquered box.

It's a "marifu."

MARIFU (page 294)

A small, intricately decorated ball of bread that is added to soups at certain traditional times of year. The word *mari* refers to a traditional, brightly-colored ball, which marifu are meant to resemble.


SAME THING FOR THIS JAPANESE... ER... SAMUE? QUITE COMFORTABLE.

SAMUE (page 367)

The plain robe worn by Zen Buddhist monks for the purpose of their daily tasks.

Die Wergelder Volume 1

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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